APPENDIX

VOLUME IV

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DISTRICT 7

DISTRICT 7

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Gregory's fair Michigan map

Basic Info

Submitter: Gregory
Location: Traverse City
Submitted: 5/10/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p114

Tags

#flint #tricities #lansing #washtenaw #kent

More Info

Districts are of equal population if using the 2019 population estimates. I want to emphasize the communities of interest here:
1) Flint and the Tri-Cities (Saginaw, Bay City, and Midland) are a clear Community of Interest, and all four cities should be in the same district
2) Oakland and Macomb should each have a district entirely within them
3) Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton should be in the same district, as a Lansing-centric Community of Interest
4) Kent and Washtenaw should both be kept whole, as both counties form their own Communities of Interest

Comments & Feedback

5/10/2021 - **Judy Oake** (Chelsea): I agree and feel Washtenaw County should be kept WHOLE!! #washtenaw

5/28/2021 - **JoAnn** (East Lansing/Ingham County): I agree that Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties constitute a Community of

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.)

Interest. Together they represent the Greater Lansing region and are considered the Tri-County area. They share economic and cultural interests and should be in the same district.

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Tri-County Community of Interest

Basic Info

Submitter: John Lindstrom
Location: EDast Lansing, Ingham
Submitted: 5/26/2021
Type: written
ID: w410

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

May 26, 2021
To the members of the commission:
I join with a number of others from the Ingham-Eaton-Clinton county area to encourage you to consider the three counties as a comunity of interest in drawing Michigan's congressional and legislative districts. It is particularly important the three counties be combined into one congressional district in order to better represent the interests and reflect the concerns of the region. The three counties are now split between three congressional districts which diminishes their overall effect and influence on national and state policy.

The region has an overall population of more than 400,000 people, not large enough on its own to contain a single congressional district. But it is approxiametely the third largest metro region in Michigan. It is home to the state Capitol, one of the 100 finest universities in the world, major industries -- including manufacturing, insurance, agriculture, healthcare, and others -- as well as internationally critical scientific research, especially with the upcoming opening of the Facility for Rare Isotope research at Michigan State University. It has an active arts and culutre structure, major athletic events, and other entertainment which draws thousands upon thousands of tourists as well as residents.
And the region recognizes itself as a unique tri-county area. The news agencies covering the region cover all three counties. Residents routinely cross county lines from their homes to their

work to their entertainment. The City of Lansing's boundaries are in both Ingham and Eaton counties.. The City of East Lansing's boudnaries are in both Ingham and Clinton counties.

A small list of private and public organizations that views themselves serving the tri-county region include:

Public Agencies

Capital Area Transportation Authority

Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham Counties

State of Michigan Prosperity Region [Health and Human Services, Economic Development, Education, Agriculture and Rural Development, Natural Resources, etc.]

Tri County Office on Aging

Tri-County Metro Narcotics Squad

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission [Planning; environmental quality;
transportation; community and economic development; data and mapping]

US Census: Metropolitan Statistical Area

Nonprofits

Capital Area Community Services [Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, and Shiawassee]

Capital Area Health Alliance

Capital Area Humane Society

Capital Area Michigan Works

Capital Area United Way

Capital Region Community Foundation

Capital Region Small Business Development Center

Disability Network Capital Area [Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, and Shiawassee]

Lansing Capital Area Salvation Army

Lansing Economic Area Partnership [LEAP]

RSVP of Ingham, Eaton, & Clinton Counties [Volunteer service program]

Tri-County Alliance for Public Education

Tri-County Bicycle Association

Tri-County Crisis Intervention Team

Tri-County TRIAD [Promotes older adult safety and reduces the fear of crime]

Businesses
Ace Cleaning and Restoration: Service the Lansing and the Tri-County Area
Ramsey Civil Process Service, Inc.
Tri County Community Advocates
Tri County Home Improvements
Tri- County Maintenance
Tri-County Emergency Medical Control Authority
Tri-County Guardianship Services
Tri-County Mobile Veterinary Clinic
Tri-County Plumbing and Drain Cleaning Inc
Tri-County Realty
But split into three congressional districts, the region is overwhelmed by the concerns of often more rural regions. Those concerns are certainly critical, but so too are the business, transportation, education, healthcare, social justice and equity, housing and government services issues of the tric-county region where the population of all three counties is largely concentrated around Lansing.
I hope you take into serious consideration making the Ingham-Eaton-Clinton area a

part of congressional district as you draw the maps for the 2022-2030 elections.
Thank you,
John Lindstrom

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Lansing Region as a Comm. of Interest

Basic Info

Submitter: Laurence Rosen
Location: East Lansing City
Submitted: 5/27/2021
Type: file
ID: f423

Tags

#lansing region
#lansingregioncommofinterest

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Sent File to Commission

Written Testimony

This is an analysis in support of establishing Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton Counties as a community of interest for Congressional redistricting.

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Greater Lansing Community

Basic Info

Submitter: JoAnn
Location: East Lansing
Submitted: 5/28/2021
Type: coi
ID: c452

Tags

#lansing

More Info

Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties make up the Greater Lansing region, also called the Tri-County area. These counties share economic and cultural interests.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

You can pan and zoom in the embedded map

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View in Districtr

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Tri-County Greater Lansing COI

Basic Info

Submitter: Ashton Shortridge
Location: East Lansing
Submitted: 6/13/2021
Type: coi
ID: c749

Tags

#tricounty #mid michigan
#greater lansing #lansing

More Info

Commission members, thank you for your important work.
The Greater Lansing region includes Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties. The three counties are actually a formal planning region in Michigan, and for good reason. Although there are diverse communities within this region, ranging from quite urban to quite rural, the entire area is centered on the Lansing Metro area - indeed, each county contains part of the urban and suburban complex of Lansing.
Further, the region's economy and employment is highly linked, particularly to State Government, General Motors, and large hospital and university entities in the core of the area. Smaller towns in the tri-county Greater Lansing area (e.g., Charlotte, Mason, Saint Johns, Eaton Rapids) all have large proportions of their workforce commute to those large employers, as well as others in the core area.
This region is currently fragmented into various districts, and this has diluted the area's political voice. Keeping the region together would address this problem.

Map

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

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Disclosure: I'm a professor at Michigan State University in this region. I am sensitive to the great local diversity within this region, just as there is in most if not all parts of the state. Still, I think keeping these areas together is on balance better than splitting them, as the region works as a large community of interest across several key characteristics.

Comments & Feedback

8/18/2021 - **Nick** (Eaton): I cannot agree more with this. As an Eaton Country resident, I have more in common with the Greater Lansing area than that of say Jackson, Hillsdale, and Lenawee counties which are far more rural. Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties should be grouped together.

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Shiawassee/Clinton/Eaton/Saginaw Senate

Basic Info

Submitter: Kerry Haley
Location: Shiawassee
Submitted: 6/26/2021
Type: plan
State Senate Districts
ID: p1080

Tags

#shiawassee #eaton #clinton #saginaw

More Info

The current State Senate district includes Clinton, Eaton, and Shiawassee Counties. We have a strong connection and a Community of Interest which includes small towns, farming communities, and rural suburban areas that have specific needs. Part of Saginaw County could be included in the district to meet the maximum population requirement.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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

View in Districtr

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Robert Bruce Hudson: Shiawassee County

Basic Info

Submitter: Bruce Hudson
Location: Owosso
Submitted: 7/1/2021
Type: written
ID: w1348

Tags

#shiawassee #owosso

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Hello,
My name is Bruce Hudson.
Thank you for taking comment from the people of the our state.
I've been a Shiawassee County resident for decades and I want to make sure our voice is heard in our state house and state senate districts.
Right now, we are in the 85th state house district which includes all of Shiawassee County and a few townships in western Saginaw County.
We are a mostly rural community with many agricultural communities and small towns.

We have specific interests and needs that other more populated areas do not share with us.
Our state senate district currently includes Eaton, Clinton, and Shiawassee Counties.
We also share very similar interests among our three counties.
We share economic, cultural, and historical interests that we do not share with many areas of our state.
We also share similar infrastructures within our communities that are very different than other communities and their needs.
Keeping our counties and townships together – as they are currently are – will also meet the criteria of compactness and contiguity, which are now guidelines the commission must follow.
We see our community of interest, full of small towns, farms, and rural townships that together make a close knit community.
We hope that you will keep these

comments in mind when you draw the maps for the next ten years.
Thank you
Bruce Hudson

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Lansing Tri-County COI evidence

Basic Info

Submitter: Jeff Padden
Location: Okemos
Submitted: 7/27/2021
Type: written
ID: w1756

Tags

#lansing #lansing tri-county coi #coi #coi evidence #ingham-eaton-clinton coi

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Members of the Commission:
I ask that as you draw maps for congressional districts, you consider the Lansing Tri-County region, comprising Ingham, Clinton, and Eaton Counties, as a community of interest and place it within one district. The current map divides our region into three congressional districts, with Ingham bundled with Shiawassee and Oakland counties. The Lansing region certainly has some commonalities with Shiawassee, but I have never heard a

resident speak of Oakland County as part of an affinity group with us, nor are we part of a community of interest with Wexford or Lenawee.
I believe residents of Ingham, Clinton, and Eaton Counties do see themselves as a community of interest, but my assertion alone does not make it so. You should rely on empirical evidence whenever possible, and I know you are attempting to do so. With that in mind, I conducted a simple scan of public agencies, nonprofits, and commercial business listings on the Internet to learn about their regional identity. A cursory Google search showed many entities that identify as part of this community. I am certain that a more extensive effort would reveal hundreds more that identify similarly. By contrast, I conducted the same scan looking for entities that identify their service area to include both Ingham and Oakland, and I found none. Not one.
The following, then, is a partial list of entities that provide public services, social assistance, and commercial work in this self-defined tri-county region..
Through them, one can obtain health care, adopt a stray pet, start a small

care, adopt a stray pet, start a small business, and get your drains cleaned, along with many other functions. They tell their customers that their service area is Ingham, Clinton, and Eaton County (and in some instances as noted, Shiawassee), and to their customers, the residents of this region, that makes sense. Together, they are in fact a multi-faceted community of interest.

Public Agencies

• Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham Counties
• State of Michigan Prosperity Region [Health and Human Services, Economic Development, Education, Agriculture and Rural Development, Natural Resources, etc.]
• Tri County Office on Aging
• Tri-County Metro Narcotics Squad
• Tri-County Regional Planning Commission [Planning; environmental quality; transportation; community and economic development; data and mapping]
• US Census: Metropolitan Statistical Area

Nonprofits

• Capital Area Community Services [Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, and Shiawassee]
• Capital Area Health Alliance
• Capital Area Humane Society
• Capital Area Michigan Works
• Capital Area United Way
• Capital Region Community Foundation
• Capital Region Small Business Development Center
• Disability Network Capital Area [Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, and Shiawassee]
• Lansing Capital Area Salvation Army
• Lansing Economic Area Partnership [LEAP]
• RSVP of Ingham, Eaton, & Clinton Counties [Volunteer service program]
• Tri-County Alliance for Public Education
• Tri-County Bicycle Association
• Tri-County Crisis Intervention Team
• Tri-County TRIAD [Promotes older adult safety and reduces the fear of crime]

Businesses

• Ace Cleaning and Restoration: Serving the Lansing and the Tri-County Area

the Lansing and the Tri-County Area

- Ramsey Civil Process Service, Inc.
- Tri County Community Advocates
- Tri County Home Improvements
- Tri- County Maintenance
- Tri-County Emergency Medical Control Authority
- Tri-County Guardianship Services
- Tri-County Mobile Veterinary Clinic
- Tri-County Plumbing and Drain Cleaning Inc
- Tri-County Realty

There are many considerations involved in defining a community of interest, but taken together, these data are compelling. I urge you to take seriously the voices of the public agencies, nonprofits, and businesses that are so important to our region, the Ingham, Eaton, Clinton community of interest.

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Latinx COI on the Greater Lansing Area

Basic Info

Submitter: LLEAD Lansing
Location: Lansing
Submitted: 8/19/2021
Type: coi
ID: c2593

Tags

#capitalarea #greaterlansing #capital area #greater lansing

More Info

This submission is about a community of interest centered on the Latino Population on the so-called Greater Lansing Area, which roughly comprises the also called tri-county area of Ingham, Clinton and Eaton.
On the current situation, our area of interest is cracked in at least three US Congressional districts causing serious loss of ability to be represented to the Latino Population on the Greater Lansing Area, which clearly has a significant presence on the area
This COI will be posted by the end of this week with the tags #greaterlansing and #capitalarea
We ask to be held whole as a voting block and or community and not to be divided.
Currently our community of interest is very gerrymandered. Particularly in our congressional district, the 8th.
It breaks the Greater Lansing Area in three different districts
From North to South you can cross it in 15 minutes.
From East to West it takes you almost two hours to cross it

Map

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

View in Districtr

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The Greater Lansing Area shares multiple resources:
Hospitals
Utilities
Major employers
A very significant Latino Population as well as a very significant representation of other minorities that include African Americans, refugees, immigrants of Asian and Middle East backgrounds.
During the last 40 years partnerships had been established among all those ethnic/racial populations which had endured and we continue to cooperate on multiple issues of mutual interest, where we typically have the same vision and values.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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number. You have two minutes to address the Commission and please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

The first person to provide in-person public comment is number one. You are invited to address the Commission, so please approach the microphone. And when your allotted two minutes has ended, please conclude your statement go ahead.

>> Good morning.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Good morning.

>> This mission is about a community of interest centered on the Latino population on the so-called Greater Lansing Area, which roughly comprises the also called Tri-county area of Clinton, Ingham and Eaton. On the current situation our area ranges with cracked in at least three U.S. Congressional districts, causing serious loss of ability to be represented to the Latino population in the Greater Lansing Area, which clearly has a significant presence in this area.

Additionally, I would ask that when you are drawing up the maps, starting I think today or tomorrow, that you consider partisan fairness, partisan presentation fairness.
And I can say that I think the two parties that are represented here will take care of that. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
That concludes our live, in-person public commentary for the morning. We will now move on to remote public comment.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide live, remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. I will call your name or number and our staff will unmute you.
If you are on the computer, you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak.
If you are on the phone, a voice will say that the host would like you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute. And I will call on your name or the last four digits of your phone number.
Also please note if you experience technical or audio issues or we do not hear from you for 3-5 seconds, we will move on to the next person in line and then return to you after they are done speaking. If your audio still does not work, you can e-mail us at www.Michigan.gov and will help troubleshoot so that you can participate during the next public comment period or at a later public hearing.

You will have two minutes to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer. The first in line to provide public comment is Mr. James Galant.

>> Can you hear me now?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes. I can hear you, sir.

>> My name is James Galant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition. And these are my opinions. And as we saw yesterday, the League of Women Voters

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Eaton Clinton Shiawassee Community

Basic Info

Submitter: Bruce Barlond
Location: Eaton
Submitted: 8/24/2021
Type: written
ID: w2753

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Ladies and Gentlemen Commissioners,
Myself and others I have spoken with view "Communities of Interest" as being the most important issue concerning the mapping of Senate, House and Congressional Districts within Michigan and our Nation!
Eaton, Clinton and Shiawassee counties are rural, small-town counties that have much different "Interests" than the bigger cities outside of those counties!
Schools, parks, medical care facilities, roads and other interests need to geared toward the needs and best interests of the people living in those rural areas!
Therefore it is very important to not let the bigger cities outside those counties

control those counties!

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Tri-County Community of Interest

Basic Info

Submitter: John Andrews
Location: EAST LANSING
Submitted: 9/7/2021
Type: coi
ID: c3904

Tags

More Info

Clinton County is a vital part of the Lansing Region. As such, the county forms a longstanding community of interest with Ingham and Eaton Counties and should share the same congressional district—as we did until after the 2010 census. We clearly meet the criteria as a community of interest (common economic, cultural, or other bonds; contiguous on map; public policy issues of common interest) with Ingham County, and Eaton County. There is also a case to be made that Shiawassee County should be included in our community of interest since that county was added to Ingham, Clinton, and Eaton Counties in 2018 to round out the Lansing-East Lansing Metropolitan Statistical Area.
A partial listing of the ways in which Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties in particular meet the standard as a community of interest includes:
• Clinton County is defined by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce as part of the Lansing Region.
• A significant number of Clinton County residents vote in cities or townships in Ingham and Eaton Counties.
• Some school-age children and youth who reside in Clinton County reside in

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.)

school districts in Ingham and Eaton Counties.

• Clinton County Commissioners serve on many boards and commissions serving the Lansing Region. A quick look at our county website shows that commissioners are assigned to serve on:

o Capital Region Airport Authority (CRAA)
o Capitol Council of Governments (CAPCOG)
o Lansing Economic Partnership (LEAP)
o Lansing Economic Partnership (LEAP) Ag Advisory Committee
o Capital Area Michigan Works (CAMW)
o Capital Area Michigan Works (CAMW) Teach, Talent, Thrive (T3)
o Capital Area Community Services (CACS)
o Tri-County Aging Consortium
o Capital Area Regional Transportation Study Technical Committee (CARTS)
o Capitol Council of Governments (CAPCOG)
o Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC)
o Community Mental Health (CMH)

• Other entities which Clinton County participates in or receives services from as members of the Lansing Region include:

o Capital Region Community Foundation
o Capital Area United Way
o Capital Area Housing Partnership
o Capital Area Humane Society
o Disability Network Capital Area
o Greater Lansing Food Bank
o Meals on Wheels/Tri-County Office on Aging
o McClaren Greater Lansing
o Sparrow Hospital Greater Lansing Area
o Power of We Consortium

• Many people who live in Clinton County work, worship, shop, and enjoy recreation and entertainment opportunities in Lansing/East Lansing, creating strong and longstanding cultural ties.

Please note that the reasons for asserting that Clinton County forms a community of interest with other counties in the

Lansing Region do not promote a particular political party, candidate, or jurisdiction.
Thank you for this opportunity to provide input for your consideration as you begin your vital work of nonpartisan redistricting.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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I believe the better approach is to encompass the cities of Lansing and East Lansing as they are tied together as communities of interest.
They share school systems, a health department, and they share the common thread of being urban.
I would like to submit for the record that as a resident of Eaton County, but my County has much more in common with Clinton, Barry, Shiawassee, and Ionia as each have rural communities than we ever would with the urban communities of Lansing and East Lansing. Please make sure my county of Eaton is represented by not putting us with the urban communities. Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. And I believe next is Brendon Allen.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Fir the purposes of the public record, five is not present and neither is number six.
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.
We will move on to Chris Andrews.
>> Including fair districts.
Thank you.
It's hard to comment when you don't have the political context to assess fairness. And I'm sorry I'm getting my buttons wrong.
Somebody might say don't break up Lansing or don't break up Ingham County.
But they might not say that if they knew that was the path to competitive Senate districts.
And I commend Commissioner Eid for coming up, with a plan to draw two Lansing region Senate seats.
This is...I've seen some people call this a gerrymander.
It's the opposite.
It intentionally creates fair and competitive districts.
I would add that I lived in Delta Township in Eaton County for ten years and I always considered myself a part of Lansing.
And there are far more things that connect it to Lansing than separate it.
The last thing I would say is it's hard to figure, to see what you guys are doing.
And I'm looking for maps.
I don't see them available online.
If they are there, you need to make them more available and what get to is something that says coming soon. And you've had some districts that have been drawn two weeks ago or three weeks ago that we can't see.
And I would also say, recommend that you find a way to provide a summary of what you are doing.
That I can't I think you're close to the end of the house and Senate.
I'm not sure.

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>> Can you hear me now?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> I'm James Huguelet, a resident of the City of Perry. And I have spent a number of years in public service.

I'm the retired mayor of the City of Perry. And I have reached out to the Commission today to express my concerns about the proposed map and the communities of interest that we share.

Shiawassee County where I live is a rural County.

And we have much in common with our neighbors in Clinton County, Eaton County.

And much less in common with our neighbors in Ingham County and in Genesee County. And to lump us in with those groups not only breaks up the interest in those urban communities but it breaks up the community interest in our small, rural community.

And it deprives one side or the other depending on who is elected for a chance to have their voices heard.

We have seen success in Michigan's history legislative history in keeping communities of interest together.

And an example of that is the right to farm act where rural legislatures were able to have their voices heard.

The voices of farmers.

To make sure that they would have the opportunity to continue farming even as people from the City moved into their communities and objected to the things that come with farming.

I also want to express my concern with breaking Shiawassee County up into different districts.

The 85th District as it is now keeps my community of Perry in with people who share much more in common with folks in Perry than does the people in Lansing and East Lansing.

And we are -- our voices are better heard by being part of Shiawassee County's District.

The other thing I want to point out on that is in my community over my adult life the communities of Perry and Woodhull Township have been flipped back and forth between the 8th and 4th Congressional districts every ten years. And we are tired of that and we would ask this Commission not do that. Thank you very much.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission next in line to speak is Bruce.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: It appears Bruce is experiencing some technical difficulties, so perhaps we can return to him after our second round.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Sure. All right. Now that the opportunity for both in person and remote public comment has concluded, without objection, we will hear from individuals seeking to provide a second two minute public comment.

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I would like to remind everybody to please go to the public comment tool and share your comments in writing, including any specific areas of the map about which you are speaking. The public comment tool is available at www.michigan.gov/micrc.

We will now move back to live remote public commentary. And at this time I would ask to see if Bruce is available and able to speak?

>> Can you hear me now?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, sir.

>> Okay, great, hey, thank you, ladies and gentleman of the redistricting committee. Thank you very much.

Yesterday I saw a map of proposed Senate District surrounding and including Lansing. This map included half of the City of Lansing with Eaton County and a part of Ingham County.

In my opinion taking into account the importance of communities of interest, Lansing should not be included with Eaton County.

The Lansing community of interest is much different than the rural community of interest that is Eaton County.

Eaton County should be included with the counties of Barry, Clinton, Ionia, or Shiawassee counties.

Eaton and Barry share a health department, and those two should definitely be together.

That's it for me.

I appreciate it.

And thank you very much.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you, Bruce.

All right. At this point we will move on to Mr. James Galant.

>> Can you hear me now, Madam Chair?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, sir.

>> Okay. This is James Galant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition, and these are my opinions.

And I'll pick up again where I left off here. I had provided to you copies of from the state archive, the rules of procedure for the Commission on legislative apportionment, which has been determined to be revived.

So this is just a name change.

So I'd like to read the first paragraph to you. And it says the Commission on legislative apportionment, which is now the Independent Redistricting Commission, shall be organized by electing two cochairs.

One from each party's Commissioners. And the chairmanship be rotated with one cochairman presiding for one day and the other cochairman presiding the next day.

Each member of the Commission shall be entitled to one vote, including the presiding officer. Absent Chair can designate a member to act in his stead.

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Unify Ingham, Eaton and Clinton

Basic Info

Submitter: Chris Andrews
Location: Haslett
Submitted: 9/11/2021
Type: written
ID: w4426

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Written Testimony to the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
Related to Congressional Redistricting in the Lansing Region
Thank you for doing this important work to support free and fair elections in Michigan. As you draw Congressional districts, I ask you to treat the Lansing region counties of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton as the Community of Interest they are by including them in the same Congressional District. For decades, the Lansing region has been the victim of gerrymandering, diminishing our influence and access to resources.

How we see ourselves: No matter where we live in this tri-county region, if we are traveling to, say Florida, we will likely tell people we are from Lansing. We read the local newspaper, the Lansing State Journal, or perhaps the Lansing City Pulse. Every two years, the Lansing League of Women Voters puts out voter guides for residents of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton. Delta Township in Eaton County is so much a part of Lansing that its mailing address is Lansing MI 48917.
Economy: Tri-county leaders have long recognized that our economy and prosperity depend on regional cooperation. Our crowning economic development achievement of the past 30 years was “keeping General Motors in Lansing.” In actuality, we kept GM in the Lansing region. Many if not most of the jobs are in new plants in Eaton County that replaced older ones in Ingham. GM calls its newest plant the Lansing Delta

Township Assembly Plant. The Lansing Economic Area Partnership, our regional economic development team, attracts and retains businesses in the three counties. Capital Area Michigan Works! provides employment services for workers and businesses through centers in each county.

The state of Michigan is a dominant employer. Many, many state workers commute from Eaton and Clinton County to state jobs, and many Ingham and Clinton residents travel to Eaton County, home to the State Secondary Complex of government offices.

Education: Michigan State University is a major employer and educational and cultural institution. Many faculty and staff live in Eaton and Clinton as well as Ingham. A major student housing development is in Clinton County. Students from all three counties also attend Lansing Community College; in fact, LCC has an expansive West Campus in Eaton County providing education and training for tri-county workers. One of the area's largest school districts, Waverly, is split between Ingham and Eaton counties, and many Lansing students choose to attend school there through school of choice programs.

Health: Sparrow and McLaren are the major health systems for residents in all three counties. When the Ingham County Health Department counts Covid cases, it notes that its numbers include Eaton and Clinton residents. The main hospital campuses are located in Ingham County, and residents from all three counties use them. In addition, there are Sparrow hospitals in St. Johns (Clinton County) and Charlotte (Eaton County). McLaren has facilities in all three counties as well.

Culture: Tri-county residents come to the Wharton Center at MSU for plays and concerts. They cheer on MSU at Spartan Stadium and the Breslin Center. The Lansing Lugnuts minor league baseball team is supported by sports fans in all three counties. Youth sports cross county

borders all the time. The Capital Area Soccer League includes teams from communities in each county. The high school Capital Area Activities Conference does the same.

People of color: Delta Township in Eaton County is one of the most diverse communities within our Community of Interest. About 12% of the population is Black, trailing only Lansing and Lansing Township. Putting Delta Township in a different district than Lansing divides the Black community and diminishes its representation in Washington.

Geographical mish-mash: Most of Lansing is in Ingham County, but portions are in Eaton and Clinton. Most of East Lansing is in Ingham, but some is in Clinton. Most of Grand Ledge is in Eaton, but some is in Clinton. When Eaton, Clinton and Ingham are separated, families that live in the same city and attend the same schools can end up with different members of Congress.

Congressional district history: If you look at the Congressional maps of the past, the Lansing region has been victims of gerrymandering for at least 20 years. The 8th District currently includes northern and even eastern Oakland County (Detroit suburbs) but none of Eaton or Clinton County just across the road. Today, our residents are at the far corners of the 4th, 7th and 8th Districts. It would be hard to further divide our Community of Interest or diminish our influence if you tried.

A history of gerrymandering: Republicans in 2001 drew a map that made it impossible for Democrats to compete in the Lansing area for a decade. Republicans in 2011 drew a map making it impossible to win until demographic changes, a perfect candidate and a Blue wave enabled a Democrat to eke out a win.

Fair districts and fair maps are the top priority. Please approve a fair map that recognizes the Ingham-Eaton-Clinton Community of Interest. These are long-

overdue corrections.
Sincerely,
Chris Andrews

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Eaton, Ingham, Clinton: Cong. District

Basic Info

Submitter: David
Location: Ingham
Submitted: 9/11/2021
Type: written
ID: w4427

Written Testimony

What a sane, logical proposed district.
The Lansing Tri-County Region!! Bravo!

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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Clinton, Eaton, Shiawassee

Basic Info

Submitter: Hope
Location:
Submitted: 9/14/2021
Type: written
ID: w4546

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

The counties of Clinton, Eaton, and Shiawassee share a community of interest. They share a common interest, a common culture, and a common way of life. They do not share any of that with the city of Lansing. According to the constitution, COI's are very important. I humbly ask that you respect our COI's and hear our input. Please keep Eaton, Clinton, and Shiawassee counties together. Thank you very much :)

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seconded by Commissioner Witjes all in favor or discussion on the motion all in favor raise hand and say aye.
Opposed please raise your hand and same sign the ayes have it and the agenda is amended.
I will now seek approval for adopting the agenda please.
First by Commissioner Witjes seconded by Commissioner Lett any discussion on the matter? All in favor of the motion please raise your hand and say aye.
All opposed raise your hand the same sign the ayes have it and the agenda is adopted.
As a reminder to the public watching you can view agenda at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.
I skipped some places in my agenda so I'm reading this for the first time and you all will forgive me.
We are moving to in person public comment on agenda pertaining to agenda topics.
Individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide in person public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so.
Please step to the nearest microphone when I call your number. You will have two minutes to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.
First in line please proceed.
>> Good morning. My name is Mike Werta, the president of UAW local 602 here in Lansing, Michigan. And my facility I represent is in Eaton County, and Lansing Delta Township. I represent 2300 members who are currently laid off. However that is a plant we have been at since 2006.
We have 5,000 retirees. Our sister plant local 652 is Lansing Grand River Plant, which is in Lansing, Michigan. They have approximately 2300 members also. And they have 10,000 retirees. So in this area alone with between those two assembly plants we have about 5,000 active folks and somewhere around 15,000 retirees.
First off, I want to thank you.
Couldn't have been fun. Probably been trying on your patience and travel and away from home. We appreciate what you have done.
Nothing is going to be perfect, but I'm here to do something that is probably pretty rare. I'm here to thank you and say job well done on what is I think the 8th Congressional District still, but will be the fifth if I have the number right.
Clinton, Eaton County, and Ingham County together is something that needs to happen. And in Eaton County, when my plant gets the power from Ingham County, my union hall is in Ingham County. Again, the plant is in Eaton County. The supplier plants to the plant in Ingham County, the Grand River plant are over in Eaton County. This area and the airport is in Clinton County. So when we bring in the logistics to have these two massive work sites, it's troubling to have the issue of going back and forth between what was or is now currently the 7th Congressional District and the 8th Congressional District

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Believe it or not commercially raised lamb is supposed to be as wide as it is long because they force feed it a lot of grain and. Have you heard the expression bloated goat? And that is because it's bloated with gas.
You're supposed to cut its belly open and release the gas believe it or not. Well, in organic ranching, you don't feed it a lot of grain and corn. And you feed it grass and hay and they are not as fat and bloated.
So there is this disconnect with the out part of the District versus the two cities, East Lansing and Lansing where I grew up by the way.
And I believe the two cities you see them as far as the Senate seat would look like, they share fire chief, right, and they share the transit system, share a lot of commonalities and a lot of similar jobs which are vastly different. And that is my peace.
And thank you very much for your time.
Good to see you, Mr. Lett
>> >> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Next in line is number four.
Please wait number four.
We need a quorum.
All right.
Please address the Commission number four.
>> Can you hear me?
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: We can.
>> My name is Christine Walker and I live in Grand Ledge, in Eaton County.
I'd like to thank the Commissioners and their staff for all the efforts to draw fair Congressional and legislative maps.
Our state will be better served if communities and their concerns are placed ahead of partisanship and political considerations.
I'm here to commend the Commission for placing a high priority on keeping communities of interest together.
Specifically I wish to commend the Commission for keeping our try County region Clinton, Eaton and Ingham together within the same Congressional District.
This makes excellent sense to me since the Tri-Counties are formally recognized region for the purposes of land use, Federal groundwater's planning, in addition to educational services, mental health, healthcare, disability and aging, among others. Thank you for recognizing Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties as a community of interest as you draft Michigan's Congressional map.
And I respectfully encourage you to continue that approach as your process proceeds.
Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Do we have number five? We do.
Please approach and address the Commission when you're ready.

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Mid-Michigan Congressional District

Basic Info

Submitter: Judy Daubenmier
Location: Brighton City
Submitted: 9/21/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p5226

Tags

More Info

I like this plan for a mid-Michigan congressional district because it keeps the tri-county area of Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties mostly together and adds Livingston, where many people live who work at the Capitol or at MSU. I commuted there for many years and still have friends there.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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.)

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Clinton Eaton Ingham/Balanced Districts

Basic Info

Submitter: Matthew ("Dusty") Horwitt
Location: Lansing/Ingham
Submitted: 9/21/2021
Type: written
ID: w5241

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

As a resident of Ingham County, I wanted to thank the Redistricting Commission for including Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties in the same Congressional district in your draft maps. Mid-Michigan is a close-knit region, and our major employers and media markets are in a district which is a mix of urban, rural and suburban communities that is balanced and does not skew too much to one political party. Please keep Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties in the same district in your final maps and, as much as possible, please make sure that all Congressional, House, and Senate

districts are fairly balanced in terms of Republicans and Democrats.

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Greater Lansing CD

Basic Info

Submitter: Daniel Luria
Location: Hamburg Township
Submitted: 9/22/2021
Type: written
ID: w5277

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

I incorrectly referred to my previous submission urging a Greater Lansing Area Cong Dist as a State Senate district.
Here's my edit:
Combining Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Livingston, Shiawassee, and western Washtenaw into a single Congressional district makes eminently good sense to me. Together they define what might be called the Greater Lansing Area. Primarily because of State government, MSU, and the Capital City airport (especially now that it offers daily nonstops to Washington, DC), this district has a coherence that could be missed looking only at distances from Detroit versus Lansing. Few in this proposed district

commute to Detroit and its near suburbs, while many travel north (up 27) or west (on 96). For residents of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Shiawassee, and northwestern Livingston, "Lansing" means "the city." Outside of downtown Lansing, Brighton, and Howell, the proposed district has longstanding farming communities; each has at least one grain elevator where farmers bring their corn and beans. From the standpoint of fairness in our roughly 50-50 red-blue state, it would likely be a swing district, something that would tend to pull both Republicans and Democrats alike toward a more consensus-seeking center, something that is much needed in today's hyper-partisan electoral arena. Thank you for considering such a district.

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Mid-Michigan Congressional Map, SofCtr

Basic Info

Submitter: Emily K-Pasternak
Location: Brighton Township/Livingston
Submitted: 9/23/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p5378

Tags

#livingston #cd8 #8thdistrict #mi-08

More Info

Greater Lansing Area
Counties: Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Livingston, Shiawassee, Washtenaw(western)
Communities of Interest:
This proposed district keeps Livingston County whole and retains it's continuity with Ingham County, which until now has comprised most of what was Michigan's most competitive congressional district. Ties btwn the two counties range from sharing the I-96 corridor, Ingham school districts like Stockbridge including parts of western Livingston county, large numbers of Livingston high school grads choosing MSU, to services of the MSU extension being provided to many Livingston farmers, to the Fowlerville News and Views circulating in eastern Ingham.
MI-08 would encompass the Greater Lansing Metro Area, merging the core three counties of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham. Closely mirroring Cluster A21, the district also encompasses Shiawassee, which is also considered part of the Combined Statistical Area. The cluster includes parts of Livingston and

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.)

Washtenaw, which was also strongly considered here for purposes of partisan fairness and population purposes. These parts also share the suburban feel of the core Lansing CSA counties, sharing strong farming and cultural roots to the rest of the district, in addition to many commuters to the state capital. The district would be a true swing district, albeit a few points redder than the state and country at large.
Additional argument:
This independent commission is our chance to reverse gerrymandering and achieve a map that properly reflects communities of interest, partisan fairness, and federal law compliance. This map avoids city splits whenever possible, reflects economic and cultural ties between towns and counties, and would all invite immediate, serious, and spirited challenges from both parties, clean up lines and prioritize communities of interest.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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Lansing TRI COUNTIES MUST STAY TOGETHER

Basic Info

Submitter: Sharon Civils
Location: Lansing
Submitted: 10/4/2021
Type: written
ID: w5923

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

I am voicing a strong urgent cry to keep Our Tri counties (Eaton Ingham and Clinton) counties together DO NOT segregate (INGHAM) county away and place Eaton with Shiawassee county and place Clinton county with Owosso county, this is mixing RUTRAL AREAS WITH URBAN AREAS, BOTH HAVE DIFFERENT NEEDS TO BE MET. People of color are heavily dense population in the Ingham county and Eaton county and have low representation this is very unfair to the BIPOC population, they are already underserved and at a total Disadvantage, The lines then puts the other politics in a more advantageous point

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Ingham-Eaton-Clinton unified

Basic Info

Submitter: Carol Ingall
Location: East Lansing
Submitted: 10/13/2021
Type: written
ID: w6521

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

As a resident living in East Lansing I own a farm in Eaton county and treating Ingham-Eaton-Clinton as a unified region in the Congressional map assures better representation rather than gerrymandered districts of the past.
It makes more sense to include Delta Township in Eaton county where it rightfully belongs.

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Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Together

Basic Info

Submitter: Eunice Foster
Location: Ingham
Submitted: 10/18/2021
Type: written
ID: w6690

Tags

#capitalarea

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this critically important matter.
The Birch Map is the optimal district for the Capital Area of Michigan because it connects Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties. This is a vast, diverse area that includes many citizens who are already connected. Consider all those who are already connected in the Clinton-Eaton-Ingham Capital Area :
* CEI Mental Health
* Great Start Collaborative
* Capital Area Disability Network
* Power of We Consortium which is the Human Services Collaborative Body for the Capital Area
* School Districts in areas that support Lansing Community College
* School Sports Teams and Band Competitions
* Area-wide public transportation cooperation via CATA, My Blue Bus, and E-tran
* Transportation hub links to Greyhound, Amtrak, and the Michigan Flyer to/from out-state destinations for accessible transportation
* Law enforcement agencies and nonprofits that attend the Capital Area ALPACT
*Michigan State University located near all three counties

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Giving everyone a voice

Basic Info

Submitter: Ellen Link
Location: Clinton County
Submitted: 10/20/2021
Type: written
ID: w6915

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

For a very long time I have felt that my vote hasn't really counted. We tend to align more with the Tri-county region of Ingham/Eaton/Clinton counties and somewhat with Shiawassee, but have been lumped with the rural/Republican region solidly controlled by Republicans. I can't even imagine what it must feel like to work for a candidate that has a real chance of winning.
I know the redistricting commissioners have an enormous task before them and appreciate the hard work they are doing. I just hope they can find a way to bring fairness to the system.

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Response to Redistricting plans

Basic Info

Submitter: terry link
Location: lainhgsburg
Submitted: 10/20/2021
Type: written
ID: w6799

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

I have long hoped for an attempt to fairly draw districts of representation at all levels of government. As a former county commissioner myself I recognize the challenge of drafting maps. I believe the approach here is an exemplary one - agree on a set of principles, then attempt to construct maps that meet those principles. I appreciate the efforts the commissioners have given to this effort and their willingness to serve in this public capacity.
I have not, and could not research and study this as much as the commission has, so except for my own region I feel I can't make judgments about other districts. I live in Clinton county and it is

very clear that this county is most directly related to Ingham and Eaton Counties and to a slightly lesser degree Shiawassee county. A district map that connects those counties makes the most sense. Given the constraints of population densities, some parts of counties will have to be carved up. From my limited perspective then I would support the Birch design.

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Currently Greater Lansing area has four districts.
The proposed maps pack one party into three districts.
Giving a disproportionate advantage to the other party.
I'd like to see Delta Township put back with Eaton County and create five districts for the Greater Lansing area.
I encourage you to consider 06677 so that districts are fair and consistent with proposal two.
Michigan voters are counting on you.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 14.
>> Hello, my name is Bridgett and I live many Washtenaw County.
Thank you for hearing my testimony and for your many hours of work on this Commission.
The draft maps are an improvement but still have an over 3% partisan tilt.
I ask the Commission to do better and aim for 0 partisan bias in our state overall.
There is still a lot of unpacking left to do in Washtenaw County.
In order to create better balanced maps that will lead our County in particular to 0 partisan bias.
Specifically I urge you to create six unpacked House Districts in Washtenaw County.
And for the Senate maps Washtenaw voters should be unpacked into three Senate districts.
That and combining western Washtenaw Townships including Scio Pittsfield and Saline with Jackson County would help promote more balanced Senate districts statewide.
Lastly the Voting Rights Act is extremely important and it's not being followed in Detroit.
I urge the Commission to listen to the people and bring maps into voting rights compliance in Detroit.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 15.
>> I'm Melanie Dewitt Township in Clinton County.
I canvassed door to door for proposal two in 2018.
The people I talked with overwhelmingly supported fairly drawn voting districts.
The redistricting maps proposed are an improvement over existing maps, but they are not yet as fair as they should be and can be.
I strongly support the Birch map because it keeps the Greater Lansing area together.
I sent a comprehensive list to you earlier about the many ways Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties comprise a community of interest.
Clinton County was in the 8th Congressional District with Ingham until 2010 when we were gerrymandered into the fourth District.
The Birch map will correct that.
The Commission's maps for the State House districts are not fair.

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If the maps remain as they are our elected officials will not be representative of the diversity that exists in our state.
It's a constitutional duty of the Commission to create maps that result in fair representation.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Now is Amadorie.
>> Hello, you can hear me, right?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, I can.
>> My name is Amadorie from Jackson County.
Thank you all for taking on this very challenging task.
I want to point out to this Commission all draft proposed maps provide disproportionate advantage to the republican party.
I'm strongly and urging the Commission to apply the same metrics for the standard of partisan fairness as are being applied for population deviation.
One way you can fix your map is to draw a true Jackson Washtenaw Senate District.
Look at map P6716.
For an example of how to do this.
Dozens of commenters have requested this District.
And your maps are very close but not quite there.
Please don't put Jackson County which is 40% democratic into safe republican seats at every level of Government.
Thank you one and all for your earnest and deliberative attention to this matter.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. We have one more in person comment, 97 you can approach the microphone and speak.
>> Whichever one you would prefer.
>> Thank you, I'm Patricia Johnson.
From East Lansing.
On I'm urging you to pass the Birch map for Congress.
It is the most fair.
Thank you for putting the try County together.
And including Shiawassee and Livingston Counties which include many residents who commute to Lansing.
However, your maps for the State House seem very unfair.
Both the districts for the Lansing region and statewide.
You have packed the most democratic parts of Eaton County into Ingham County District.
This amounts to gerrymandering.
The Friday County is a democratic area.
And we currently have four democratic representatives.
This would reduce it to three.

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I live in Hartland but in Brighton four times a week and go to the farmers market and most importantly go to church in Brighton and it's an important community of interest in Livingston County there are eight of them and half of them also provide K-8 education.
Two of the 8 Catholic churches are in Brighton and one of them also provides K-8 education.
So again communities of interest I think are up most consideration when drawing these maps and I respectfully ask that you keep Brighton intact and not place Livingston.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Michael P.
>> Hello, can you hear me.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.
>> Thank you I'm Michael P I live in East Lansing.
I've been an almost lifelong resident of the State of Michigan.
For many, many, many years.
I would like to thank first of all I'd like to thank the Commission for all the work you're doing.
As well as the transparency and the opportunity for us to participate that you are bringing to this process.
Balancing the needs and desires of the various and diverse communities of interest in a fair and equitable manner is extremely challenging task.
And I salute you for that.
Two comments primarily.
One is I wanted to mention that I support the Birch map that has been proposed for the Congressional districts.
It seems to make a lot of sense for Eaton Clinton and, Inc come Counties to be included in one District and one that also includes Shiawassee and Livingston Counties as well which are really a part of the work shed that is centralized in this area.
The other thing I'd like to say though as I agree with some of my other speakers who have said that whereas you have done a lot of good work there is a little bit more work to be done in terms of bringing fairness to the house maps.
In particular the maps for the Lansing region have shortchanged the opportunity for fairness with respect to partisan fairness.
Currently the number of districts there are four districts, they are democratic districts.
The new plan.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Matt D.
>> Hello, can you hear me.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.
>> Okay is my background not up? Never mind.
I'm Matt D from Jackson County.
And a time of intense election integrity concerns in Michigan you have the opportunity to be heroes or zeros.

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Proposed Congressional maps

Basic Info

Submitter: Richard
Location: Shiawassee
Submitted: 10/21/2021
Type: written
ID: w7009

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

The MICRC proposed Congressional maps need to keep Shiawassee County intact with other rural agricultural and small business communities as possible. The proposed Lange Congressional Plan is completely unacceptable because it guts Shiawassee County by pulling Owosso, Corunna and Durand out of Shiawassee County putting the rest of the county with an entirely different Congressional District. Owosso, with the most population is the business and shopping center and heart of Shiawassee County. Just a mile or so to the east, Corunna is the County Seat where the County Commissioners meet, the County Sheriff and the court system sits. The Lange Plan

would be completely disorienting to the community!
The Eid Plan is the best congressional map plan for Shiawassee County as it keeps 4 similar counties whole and most of Eaton County whole as well. This would best represent these rural agricultural and small business counties. The Birch, Maple, Juniper and Clark Plans also represent similar communities of interest best with Shiawassee County losing only Hazelton Township in the NE corner of the county.

Target	Deviation	Total Population	NH White (Combo)	NH Black (Combo)	NH Native (Combo)	NH Asian (Combo)	NH Pac Islander (Combo)	NH Other (Combo)	Hispanic	Voting Age Population	VAP NH White (Combo)	VAP NH Black (Combo)	VAP NH Native (Combo)	VAP NH Asian (Combo)	VAP NH Pac Islander (Combo
0	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
775,179	196 (0.03%)	775,375	726,790 (93.73%)	11,385 (1.47%)	38,650 (4.98%)	7,251 (0.94%)	879 (0.11%)	9,957 (1.28%)	15,847 (2.04%)	633,080	597,460 (94.37%)	8,188 (1.29%)	27,402 (4.33%)	5,147 (0.81%)	554 (0.09%)
775,179	-182	774,997	710,889	21,627	19,937	7,352	659	10,625	36,060	606,868	560,657	16,019	14,526	4,965	418

Target	Deviation	Total Population	NH White (Combo)	NH Black (Combo)	NH Native (Combo)	NH Asian (Combo)	NH Pac Islander (Combo)	NH Other (Combo)	Hispanic	Voting Age Population	VAP NH White (Combo)	VAP NH Black (Combo)	VAP NH Native (Combo)	VAP NH Asian (Combo)	VAP NH Pac Islander (Combo)
0	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
775,179	196 (0.03%)	775,375	726,790 (93.73%)	11,385 (1.47%)	38,650 (4.98%)	7,251 (0.94%)	879 (0.11%)	9,957 (1.28%)	15,847 (2.04%)	633,080	597,460 (94.37%)	8,188 (1.29%)	27,402 (4.33%)	5,147 (0.81%)	554 (0.09%)
775,179	-182	774,997	710,889	21,627	19,937	7,352	659	10,625	36,060	606,868	560,657	16,019	14,526	4,965	418

Target	Deviation	Total Population	NH White (Combo)	NH Black (Combo)	NH Native (Combo)	NH Asian (Combo)	NH Pac Islander (Combo)	NH Other (Combo)	Hispanic	Voting Age Population	VAP NH White (Combo)	VAP NH Black (Combo)	VAP NH Native (Combo)	VAP NH Asian (Combo)	VAP NH Pac Islander (Combo)
0	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
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	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
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0	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
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DISTRICT 8

DISTRICT 8

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So my map is at P37 but I see there is other maps out there as well that do a good job making the District more compact.
Thanks.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Royce Stevens.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Mr. Stevens, if you can unmute yourself, you are free to address the Commission.
>> I'm sorry hello.
Good morning.
I am Royce Stevens and the maps drafted but I the Commission there are obvious considerations that need more attention.
First Bay City Saginaw Flint are all communities of interest and should be kept together.
These communities are connected by the I-75 corridor by I-75 in our economically intertwined.
Genesee and Shiawassee Counties have large number of auto workers.
Makes it logical to keep these communities together.
All three of the communities that I mentioned earlier Flint Bay City and Saginaw share regional airports, as well as transportation hubs.
They also share media markets.
These commonalities should be reflected by a map that keeps these communities together.
It is my understanding that the Commission DRA expert was not in attendance when drafting this map.
I do not know for sure but maybe this is why the fact that Flint and Saginaw share so many demographics and would benefit from shared representations was ignored in constructing of this map.
It is my belief that it is in the best interest of these communities of interest to have Flint Saginaw and Bay City represented in a single Congressional District.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Lee.
>> Hello good morning.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Good morning.
My name is Charis Lee and I'm echoing the sentiment of the other individuals from Flint on the call.
I have taken a look at the map and I do believe that there are more changes that need to be made.
I really want to I don't want to inundate you and repeat comments and I really want to focus on what has not been said and Saginaw, Flint, they both have significant African/American and Latino populations and so when we think about that we need to

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make sure that we don't break up communities and put them in two districts with very rural and different parts of the state that they have little in common with.
I know that you know Saginaw, Flint, Bay City these are communities of interest.
That need to be kept together.
And if you take a look at the map now the way that it's broken up you know it takes away our voice and it takes away us the ability for us to be you know to be collectively representing or having representation that represents us as a community.
And you can focus in on what is important to us when you look at our media markets, you know such as ABC12 is you know a Saginaw Flint and Bay City it makes no sense for our communities to be broken up you know in different blocks with different representation.
You know most people are going to in those areas are going to be able to you know travel within those areas along I-75 and really be able to you know work together when you think about the auto workers and you think about the number of unions that we have along those corridors.
So I really appreciate you listening to my public comment today and I hope that you take a significant look at this area and keep Genesee County and Shiawassee County together thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
We will now move on to I believe it's I'm sorry McKenny, Jasmine McKenny.
>> Good morning.
My name is Jasmine McKenny and I'm a resident of the great City of Flint and speaking to the City and County we reside.
As many of you remember in a not so distant past the City of Flint was impacted in a great way by the decisions of elected officials that lacked compassion and understanding about the dynamics within our City.
And here we sit today facing a similar dilemma.
I come this morning to ask you to reconsider the maps you have drawn for my community.
As a community of interest you have proposed to connect our area with Lapeer and north Oakland County which would drastically impact our representation.
This map was drafted in just a few hours and does not give the proper consideration of connecting our community with Bay City, Saginaw and Flint.
Which are all communities of interest and should be kept together.
As attorney Lee just stated both Saginaw and Flint have significant Black and Latino populations that would benefit from shared representation in a single Congressional District.
I am imploring you to take another look at this map.
Our community cannot survive a lack of representation in this area that does not understand the needs of our minority populations.

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I'm imploring you to do this.
We are the ones who supported the proposition to even have an Independent Redistricting Commission.
And so we shouldn't be left in the dark.
I'm thanking each of you for all of the time that you have spent but we need to spend some more time on these maps.
Thank you for your time.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
We will now move on to I believe it's Charif.
>> Hello. My name is Nayyirah, director of Flint rising in Michigan.
Our organization endorsed proposal two which was which created the Independent Redistricting Commission back in 2018.
And we did a lot of education in getting like our community excited about that.
And when I saw the draft version of our Congressional map it just really felt like a slap in the face.
Because in my opinion the map is straight trash.
You guys need to go back to the drawing board.
In addition to what previous speakers have said and I don't necessarily want to be labor and reinforce like I totally reinforce what they already said but you cracked, you know, Congressional the current Congressional District number 5.
And even looking at Saginaw like that is even more offensive because like Saginaw the City of Saginaw does not have anything in common with northern Macomb County which is now that is part of the new proposed District.
The City of Flint even though like I've been to Lapeer, and I've been to Clarkston and proposed Congressional District number ten which is what my new District would be if we go forward with these maps like Flint doesn't really have anything in common with Clarkston.
Or with a piece of Huron County and we really need to make sure that you don't dilute the African/American and Latino voice outside of Detroit because we matter too.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Next in line is Pamela Pugh.
>> Good morning. And I'm a lifelong resident of Saginaw, Michigan, where the percentage of African/American and Hispanic residents in the City is 44% and 15% respectively.
And the median household income of Flint is two times less than the state and persons living at or below poverty is three times that of the state.
Flint and Saginaw residents have both experienced disparate health conditions at a much higher rate whether we are talking COVID infant mortality and asthma and child cancer and the list goes on. Michigan is the fifth worst for school funding. And

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African/American children in Michigan are over 70% more likely to live in high poverty areas like Saginaw and Flint where schools lack the resources to meet the needs of all students.
Michigan is the state where even though over 65 years after brown versus Board of Education children still had to sue their Government for right to literacy.
Schools with teacher and classrooms with books school buildings with heat and air.
And we know that nationally statistics show the dropouts are 3.5 times more likely to be arrested than high school graduates and Black is 50% of Michigan's prisoners and 14% of all over population.
And let me just speed up.
And so I want to make sure that you all know that I'm here today because the Congressional districts 10 and 11 as currently drafted will further weaken the voice of a community of interest yet crying out for equal protection by their Government systems to protect our health, our water, our air, our land and ensure us access to an equitable education and economy.
I'm imploring this Commission to take more time to act upon the commented and dire needs of these communities of interest whose lives depend on representation that speaks up for us Flint, Saginaw and Bay City.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
We will now move on to Jerry Hall.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: This is a duplicate of earlier.
We have two Jerry Halls on the list but Jerry was not present so is she not here as well? She is here or is not? Okay.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Jerry you are unmuted and you may proceed to address the Commission.
>> I'm Jerry Hall.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: It appears Jerry may be experiencing some technical difficulties so we can move on.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, all right, Dan M.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: What about Steve 22?
>> Good morning.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Good morning.
>> I appreciate the hard work that the Commission has done already and thank you for it.
And looking forward to the hard work you have in front of you.
My issues today are specifically around what is now known as District 5.
I think it's by changing that to District 10 it's going to change or cause a large amount of confusion.
I'm also worried about the demographics of the new District.

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>> Good morning and thank you for holding these hearings. My name is Art Reyes and I'm a resident of Genesee County.
I feel we are better served with the communities of Saginaw and Bay City than Oakland and Lapeer.
I live in the fifth, the current fifth.
It's my opinion that having partisan, competitive districts are a way to get us on the path of having our Government to accomplish more of people's business.
Political fairness is a community of interest and us continuing to stay with Saginaw and Bay City allow for that.
The draft maps which have been distributed do not do that.
There is clear questions on how one and how the Voting Rights Act would view these changes and the current T fifth being broken up the way it is divides clear communities of interest demographically as well as an economic base.
Genesee, Saginaw and Bay Counties do meet these criteria as well as offering diversity.
We cannot allow for the voices of those who have traditionally been underserved to be further diluted.
Please take our comments into serious consideration and redraw the Congressional District with fairness in mine.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
We will now move on to Judy D.
>> Hello, my name is Judy Daubenmier from Genoa Township in Livingston County. I want to thank the Commission for all your work on redistricting and on this draft Congressional map.
I know you realize you have a lot more work to do.
To make sure it meets the criteria for partisan fairness and Voting Rights Act concerns.
Parts of the map really need to be redone to make sure it eliminates any partisan bias that plagues the existing map.
But I am pleased that the Mid-Michigan District looks very compact and keeps the try County area of Ingham Eaton and Clinton Counties together.
And I'm especially pleased all of Livingston County is being kept with Ingham.
Ingham and Livingston County form a community of interest in many ways.
Many people commute from Livingston to Lansing or East Lansing to work at the state capitol or Michigan State University.
I still have many friends in Lansing from the 9 years I spent commuting from Livingston County to Lansing.
And I keep in touch with them.
I'm very comfortable going to meetings there.
You know prior to Zoom that's what we did.

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Tri-Cities in Flint are not part of the thumb and they do not belong with those counties.
Please redraw the map, a better map to more better equitably offer the Tri-Cities and counties and Flint Genesee County the possibility of electing a representative from one of the four counties.
Thank you very much.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Sandra Jones.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay do we have number 29? Okay handy.
>> Good morning. I'm LaCracha Handy, a Genesee County resident. We are better served with counties of Saginaw and Bay City rather than Oakland and Lapeer.
Partisan fairness is a community of interest and we need to keep that in mind.
That is why the people of Michigan voted for the proposal that created the Commission.
The Commission has Flint and Genesee County in a new Congressional District which is 85% white.
Come on now let's be real for a minute.
People of color will not have their voices heard even though it is our right to be heard.
With that being said, as a Black female resident of Flint Township and Genesee County and registered voter in the State of Michigan I'm urging the Commission to be fair.
Keep Flint Saginaw and Bay City together.
Our communities work well together.
And we need fair representation.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Angie Miller.
>> Good morning are you able to hear me.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you.
>> Thank you.
My name is Angie Miller and I'm a lifelong resident of Saginaw County.
First of all I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the Commission for all the work you're doing.
I'm speaking to you today to request that you reconsider the Congressional map the as it is drawn for Saginaw and Genesee Counties, together they are a community of interest.
I-75 connects the two counties.
The top two employers in both counties are in auto industry and healthcare.
Covenant hospital in is Saginaw County and genesis in Genesee County.
When reviewing the Alice population which is often referred to as the working poor the counties are similar.

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Approximately 43% of Saginaw County residents are at an Alice or poverty level and 41% of Genesee County residents are at an Alice or poverty level.
Lastly both Saginaw and Genesee Counties are diverse communities and the minority vote of both counties would be diminished as separated.
Please consider and draw a map that would put both Saginaw and Genesee Counties in the same Congressional District.
I appreciate your time and consideration thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
All right we are at John Frederick.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Participants 31 and 32 are not present.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.
So that brings us to 31 and 32, 33.
Isra.
>> Hello. Good morning, everyone. My name is Isra from Genesee County. Thank you so much for your work thus far. And I want to comment about the way the map including Flint has been drawn. And thanks and shout out to everyone who has gone before me. And I'm satisfied so many folks see the same issue, so similar to the fellow commenters saying the predominately Black City of Flint is not reflected in your current map and has a high Latino population I too think that communities of interest have not been considered adequately and I think it's a bad map.
It's not repetitive of the communities of interest that exist.
As someone growing up in Genesee County, I know that there are several communities of interest that makeup our region and to have Flint lumped in with rural areas is a huge disservice to not only Flint area community members but also the rural area community members because our needs are different and differ a lot.
Furthermore as someone who comes from a community of interest the Arab American community in Genesee County and one whose ethnicity is erased in census data as we are considered white it makes it different to give a population size and compounds the problems we face.
And the flawed map would compound issues and if it stays, we would be among liked ones again with our Black and Latino community members and we would be drown out so I strongly urge you to redraw the map to be more fair and representative as Flint has more in common with Bay City and Midland than it does with the thumb and Congressional representation needs to reflect that.
A minor comment about anyone who joined late I did not get the Zoom link so if you could call on the people that were supposed to speak in the beginning.
Thank you so much for giving me this time.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Anthony.
>> Test test

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you.

>> Good morning I'm Anthony I had an opportunity to visit my childhood friend and hang out with his child in teenage years.

During a talk about the future I heard him say you have to think, dream and envision bigger in order to achieve success in this world.

I understand your daunting tasks of proposing the new conditional districts.

I would like all of you to hear that valuable lesson and implement it in your thoughts in order to think, dream and vision bigger in a sense you have to start with a good foundation. Strong foundations are started by shared history and connections such as Flint's history with the Tri-Cities, Bay Cities of Bay City Saginaw and Midland.

Flint is a community of interest, has more in common with the Tri-Cities of Bay, Saginaw, Midland than it does with rural areas it's paired with in your draft map.

This is reflected in many of the public comments heard at the hearings.

We share the same media markets, the same regional hospitals, and a shared history of industrial production background.

We also share common interests like water shut offs, ongoing environmental crisis and environmental justice issues. With these maps and issues and so many more that affect our cities, we have to dream bigger and think harder and deal with these issues that were presented before us today.

The Congressional map as drawn on Thursday does not give the people of Flint an opportunity to send somebody to Congress who will represent the most important issues to them like water shut offs, and environmental crisis issues, and environment justice issues. So when I think of what is best for communities I serve in, I have to think on a big scale of and challenge my vision to answer that question of what the success looks like.

You will have to expand the shared common issues and causes to the issues.

Success does not look like the loss of representation on matters that affect us the most.

Congressional District five demands representation that understands the issues effecting us and comes from shared history and understands our issues and vision of what tomorrow brings.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Susan Hendricks.

>> Hi. I'm Susan Hendricks, Grand Blanc in Genesee County. And I've been adoption of proposal two in 2018 creating the new MICRC. I got signatures and went door to door contacting thousands of citizens. 201 and equal representation one person, one vote, weighted equally. And wanted to know their elected officials represented the voters and that their votes count equally. They especially wanted to know the elected legislatures political affiliation matched that of Michigan citizens. As I

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Support of Eid's Congressional Map

Basic Info

Submitter: Zachary Geyer
Location: Ann Arbor City
Submitted: 9/20/2021
Type: written
ID: w5071

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Hello, I have been following the MICRC for a while, and I have to say that Eid's map is far better than the collaborative one. Midland, Bay City, Saginaw, and Flint all belong in the same district, which his map does. The current map does not include midland, because some people are arguing that midland county is a rural district; and it is clearly not. Midland city is a Tri-City, it needs to be included with the others. I have also heard arguments that putting it with Genessee and Saginaw counties will dilute the Republican vote, even though the city of midland actually voted democrat. Wouldn't putting genessee in a republican district dilute their vote, which is much larger than midland's? All arguments to not include midland in this district are flawed. I also like how Eid included Southfield with part of Detroit which increasing the minority representation allowing for 2 districts that are between 45-50% black, this is VRA compliant. Grosse Point should also be put with the Macomb-centered district which is in his map. I URGE the commission to look at the partisan standpoint of all districts in their current map, as this will show that the current draft map is a Republican gerrymander. A fair map should yes include coi, but also should be partisanally fair, and since Democrats have won statewide in the past 4 years with an average of 3-4%, then 7 districts should be overall Democrat, and 6 districts should overall be Republican. This does not mean each district has to be safe for that party, in fact, I think having 3-5 competitive seats would be great. All of this is included in

Eid's plan and I PLEAD the commission to take his map seriously and use a lot of his ideas.

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>> Hello, Commissioners. My name is Trenton Berry. I'm from Midland Michigan. Based on the U.S. Congressional districts that you guys drew yesterday, you draw Midland from the rest of the Tri-Cities in Flint.
You guys were concerned about diluting the minority population because someone said that adding Midland increased the white population.
Midland is by and large a very white City. But if you look at the 2020 census data, it would show that what you guys created yesterday is diluting the minority vote even more. Based on the 2020 census, Midland City has a white population of 89.9%.
Midland County as a whole has a white population of 93.8%, which while Tuscola and Arenac Counties have a white population of 96.2 and 96% respectively.
The County has a white population of 94.6%, which is higher than Midland County.
From the same data Midland has an African/American population of 2.1%, which is above Tuscola's 1.3% Arenac 0.5%. And Midland City also has an Asian population of 4% which is above Tuscola and Arenac's 0.3%. Which means the map that you guys created excluding Midland is diluting the minority vote even more.
It would be very much appreciated if you could redo the VRA with and without Midland and see.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Mr. Berry, we may have lost you.
Mr. Berry, we cannot hear you if you are still speaking.
Secretary of State please.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: It appears you are experiencing technical difficulties. We can move on to the next participant and return to you at a later time and if your technical difficulties continue to persist, please e-mail us at redistricting@Michigan.gov and we will help trouble shoot.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you, Secretary of State. Next is Art Reyes and please allow a moment for our staff to unmute you.
>> Can you hear me.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Good morning, yes, we can.
>> Good morning, Commissioners and everyone. My name is Art Reyes. I'm a lifelong Michigander and resident of Genesee County. Thank you for your efforts carrying out the mandate assigned to you by the voters of Michigan.
I appreciate seeing the newer versions of the maps yesterday.
I appreciate seeing the second and third version of what is the current fifth, but will be the 11th, keeps the communities of Flint and Genesee County with Saginaw and Bay County. And if Midland City is included or not, these new proposals are far better than the first one. And it does seem to pay proper respect to the communities of interest along that part of the I-75 corridor while addressing partisan fairness.
I would further ask though that when we are redoing these Congressional districts, and it's unfortunate that our census data has us losing a Congressional seat, but I would ask that that Congressional District that has to be lost correlate to where the population

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actually was lost, that is northern Michigan. And it's a shame any time we lose population and therefore lose a voice in Congress. We should lose that voice from where the people have left.
Thank you for the work you are doing.
Please stay safe.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Next in line is LaCracha.
Please allow a moment for our staff to unmute you.
>> I'm LaCracha Handy. Can you hear me? I'm sorry.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: We can. I'm sorry.
>> Good morning, Commissioners.
I'm LaCracha Handy, resident of Flint Township and Genesee County.
The people have spoken and you all listened, so I just want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for listening to the community in regards to keeping Flint, Saginaw and Bay City together.
Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you.
Is Dwayne Thompson.
Please allow a moment for our staff to unmute you.
Dorian Thompson.
>> Can you hear me?
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Yes, we can.
>> All right. Good morning. My name is Dorian Thompson. When I moved to Ottawa County to start as a student at Grand Valley State University I was struck by the sense of community and pride of the residents of Ottawa County.
I learned about Dutch culture, beautiful lakeshore and hospitality of its residents.
Ottawa County became home and residents became family to me.
Currently in the Board's planning, they are tearing Ottawa County into three different districts, which is a dangerous plan.
Ottawa County is one of the most unique counties in the United States with access to a major lake, its tourist attraction, agricultural hub, and strong presence of the manufacturing industry. Now more than ever, they deserve to have one member of the United States House of Representatives who can voice their concerns and needs in a unified way.
During the 1840s United States of America became home to a new community of people, Dutch Americans. And a large portion of them settled in Holland, Michigan, which is in Ottawa County. Right now Ottawa County is home to roughly 10% of Dutch Americans living in the United States.
Under the redistricting process it's not only a precedent to keep the communities of the shared interest together, it's imperative we do so.

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I also applaud your recognition of the shared industrial history, shared infrastructural needs, shared potable and recreational system of the Saginaw River and I-75 corridor in your draft Congressional mapping that includes Genesee, Bay and Saginaw Counties.

Great strides have been made to address the legacy of industrial contamination including brownfield development and wetland preservation.

But a Federal advocate is essential if progress is to continue.

It is in that context that I would ask the Commission to consider the City of Midland be included in your Congressional map.

Given the central position in the watershed and the importance of the Tittabawassee River to the overall water quality and the Saginaw River and Bay, I sincerely believe it should be part of the Congressional District.

Also, all four urban areas will play an important role in developing strategies of resilience and common efforts to roll back climate change.

I am wearing a 350 pin and have since 2011.

Ten years later 350 parts per million is a livable amount of CO2.

We are at 419 now.

We have to address climate change and we need Congressional representation to do so.

Thank you, Commissioners.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

We will now move on to number five.

>> Good evening. I'm Barb Handley Miller, a retired professor from Delta College. I live in Bay County Michigan where I raised a family. I'm a part of a Bay County community of interest. And I have submitted a map aligning Bay County with Saginaw, Genesee County and the City of Midland in a Congressional District.

I thank the Commission for recognizing the combined interests of Saginaw, Bay and Midland Counties in the State Senate District and urge you to keep that map.

These urban communities of Genesee, Saginaw, Bay City and Midland share the Saginaw Bay watershed and environmental concerns. They are a key industrial corridor and have significant populations of people of color in Genesee and Saginaw in particular, and they deserve to have a united strong voice.

One example of that is in higher education.

Over 40% of college students start at a community college.

At Delta College where I taught, 81% of students come from Saginaw Bay and Midland Counties. Those counties are very tied.

At Delta and Mont Community college in Flint over 30 percent transfer to four year universities, many to universities in this proposed Congressional district. SVSU, Northwood University in Midland, University of Michigan Flint, and now many CMU students in Saginaw that are medical students and have centered there.

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We need united representation to work for fair Federal loan and Pell grant policies for fair access for lower income students and for Veterans who deserve to have GI benefits supported.
These colleges also revitalize our downtown and would be helped by a unified Congressional voice representing these urban areas. This would be a fair, nonpartisan District and I urge you to consider again aligning the City of Midland, Bay, Saginaw and Genesee Counties in a Congressional District.
I thank you for listening well to us at these forums and wish you the best in your process.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commissioner number six.
>> Thank you for dropping by.
Last time that U.S. Senator Moolenaar was here, there were law enforcement officers were guarding him.
You ask why?
He did not represent Isabella County.
The reason why he didn't, why he was representing us was because there is a strip of Midland County had been attached to Isabella County.
That is the only reason why he was elected.
There is no commonality.
If you go east on M20 you see that.
Isabella County is a very educated County.
I agree, we should be attached to Gratiot County, not with Midland County.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Number seven.
>> Hi. My name is Niki.
I'm from Lansing.
I just want to say thank you, appreciate the work.
I worked on census 2020 throughout the whole year, so I know how hard stuff like this is.
I want to comment on the Senate districts for Lansing and the Congressional districts as well. I think that those drafts do a good job of making fair maps. And I would like to see the same ideas for State House Districts. Greater Lansing is growing and compared to 10 years ago, there are more businesses, places to go, and things to do in the Greater Lansing, especially with CATA running into Ingham, Eaton and Clinton Counties. My House District could be Downtown Lansing, Old Towne and up to Dewitt. A lot of people who work at the main Lansing hospital, Sparrow, commute from Clinton.

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University, Alma College, Saginaw, Chippewa Tribal College and Mid-Michigan College are located here.
The Chippewa watershed conservancy protects the land, water and the wildlife in Isabella and Gratiot Counties. Agricultural, recreation and health are impacted by the rivers in both counties.
Wind farms dot the landscape in both counties. One time Gratiot and Isabella Counties had separate United Ways, but now we are two counties, working cooperatively in the Gratiot, Isabella United Way. Isabella and Gratiot Counties have culture, historic, environmental and educational and economic connections. Together Isabella and Gratiot Counties form a community of interest.
I hope that my perspective has been some help as you, excuse me, strive to draw maps. And I hope that you take this into consideration, so thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Number 14.
>> Hi. My name is Lauren Hall. I'm a student here at CMU, but I'm originally from Bay City, Michigan.
Tonight I just want to talk about Bay County a little bit.
For me it's really important that Bay, Midland and Saginaw stay together first and foremost because that is primarily how we self-identify as a community. We are the Tri-Cities, that is how I tell people where I'm from when I'm on campus or around Michigan.
Secondly, I would also state that the number two employer of Bay County is Dow Chemical, which is located in Michigan or it's located in Midland.
So there is an economic interest in keeping the communities together.
Finally, when we mention Delta College, how we elect board of trusties to Delta College is through whether or not they live in Saginaw, Bay and Midland.
We have specific designators for those delegates to the board of trusties in our elections.
And then finally I graduated from western high school.
Which for those of you who are not familiar with the area is about halfway between Midland County and Bay County.
And I can tell you first and foremost from experience that a majority of my classmates were from Midland County even though the school that I went to was in Bay County simply because it was closer to rural Midland County. So there is a vested educational interest in keeping the Tri-Cities together as well.
And I hope that you will consider that as you make your maps.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Number 15.
>> Hi, everyone. My name is Isabella.

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As I said before, this is supposed to be committee of the whole. This is committee of the whole structure. And are only supposed to have two statements per person, per member during the agenda item unless you are in committee of the whole. Then you have unlimited amount. And then committee of the whole is just making a recommendation for the draft maps.
That is how this should have went and what should be happening now.
I would like to request that you hire a registered parliamentarian to provide you a written report on the subject. And I'd like to request that the Central Michigan University student Government to consider on their agenda whether this Commission is this decision making process, is actually according to the rules of procedure that are approved in the Robert's Rules of Orders requirement for a motion second establishing the immediately pending question. So CMU student body Government, please, political science department, please, somebody.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Next is Mike.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not currently present.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right, Lisa Coney.
>> Can you hear me?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.
>> Good afternoon. I'm Lisa Coney, 35-year-plus resident of Saginaw County.
And I just wanted to thank you for the hard work that you have been doing and that you continue to do.
I want a State Senate District that includes the Tri-Cities,
Saginaw, Midland and Bay City.
The Tri-Cities are a community of interest and have long been called the Tri-Cities because they share economic, cultural and historic interests.
We are called the Great Lakes region because of how closely linked we are.
We share an airport.
The people of the Tri-Cities travel to each other's cities for shopping, entertainment and cultural.
We share economic interests in Michigan including the Michigan sugar, General Motors, Dow Chemical and SC Johnson.
There is even a Wikipedia Page highlighting the ties between the three communities.
I want a U.S. Congressional District that includes the Tri-Cities and Flint.
Saginaw, Midland, Bay City and Flint are communities of interest.
We are connected by the I-75 corridor.
And share many regional airports.
Saginaw and Flint have significant Black populations that would benefit from shared representation in a single Congressional District.
Saginaw has a large Hispanic population as well.

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When joined the first draft of the Congressional districts, the Commission's VRA expert was not on hand and the Commission gave little to no consideration to Black or Latino populations in Mid-Michigan.
We all share common media markets.
We share educational ties through local high school sports.
We are also closely linked through our colleges and universities.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
I know that timer is a little hard to hear.
Bill Meyer.
>> Okay, yes. Hello. My name is Bill Meyer. I'm from Hamtramck and I'm with a group called One Hamtramck, which is an organization that addresses social, peace and social justice issues.
Born in this area 77 years ago.
I know the area intimately.
And I want to say that many of you are probably unaware of a couple statistics of Hamtramck because they are usually not recorded.
One is that the City has majority of the two largest ethnic groups are Yemeni and Bangladesh.
It's not a polish City anymore, although many people think it is.
So this makes it the highest percentage of Muslims in any City in America, as high as 70 to 80%.
Probably in the entire western hemisphere.
And for a long time these people have been marginalized in City Government and issues and media and everything.
They are speaking out now.
They are finally asking for their fair justice.
And I want to mention that Rebecca Islam has provided a map from APIA, which I hope you take a look at.
And, first of all, I wanted to thank you for letting me speak.
This is a map that shows the density of people of color in this area.
And to break that group up would be a tragedy.
Our group in Hamtramck works through culture and we supported the Bangladesh mural on the border of Hamtramck and Detroit, carpenters.
So many Bangladesh are in Hamtramck and also across carpenter into Detroit.
I want to thank you for listening to me and letting me speak.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Roman.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, we will move on to Reverend Tyler Wagenmaker.
>> Okay. There we go.

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I'm not sure what he is here for though.
I mean, what his name is on the screen.
I just wanted you to know that he is here.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay. Thank you.
>> Okay. So I'll get to mine. My name is Cindy Weir. I live in Midland, Michigan.
First, I would like to thank the Commission for drawing a State Senate District that includes the cities of Midland, Bay City and Saginaw, also known as the Tri-Cities.
These three cities are an obvious community of interest.
And we all have like things in common, industrial based communities, our economies are connected.
We have a shared airport with Midland, Bay City, and Saginaw.
And we share several media out lets and regional colleges and universities.
That's my comment regarding the State Senate District.
And I appreciate you drew those together and I urge you to keep that map.
But also like to request the Commission to include the City of Midland in the Congressional map along with Bay City, Saginaw, and Flint.
These Cities are the core of Mid-Michigan and a community of interest for all of the same reason I just mentioned for the State Senate District.
We identify as the Tri-Cities.
And we should stay together in both the Senate and the Congressional districts.
I just want to thank you for all the work you are doing, hearing us and making changes based on our comments.
I'm looking forward to seeing the new maps with our districts drawn that are fair and competitive, which will in turn make for much better governing, which we need in the State of Michigan. So thank you for your hard work.
That's all.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
It's my understanding Mike has joined so let's go back to him.
>> Mike Curell.
>> Hello.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: I can hear you.
>> All right, good afternoon.
This was difficult.
Good afternoon my name is Mike Curell. I'm a long-time resident of the City of Midland.
And I want to thank you for volunteering and for all your hard work.
Your work is so important for fair elections in Michigan.
I'm speaking today to advocate for the cities of Midland, Bay City and Saginaw being recognized as a community of interest.
I'm a long time Midland resident, recently retired. I've spend most of my adult life working in the area including jobs and all three communities.

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Tri-Cities have a long history of connections and common concerns whether it's our shared infrastructure, our schools, our colleges, the airport, common healthcare providers.
Large and small business issues.
And keeping the rivers that connect us healthy and clean.
We are connected and share common concerns.
Communities of interest by definition refer to a group of people who have a common set of concerns that may be affected by legislation.
I think the Tri-Cities more than meet that requirements.
Please take into consideration my concerns.
I believe our unique issues merit common representation both in Lansing and in Washington.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Next in line is James.
>> Hello. Can you hear me.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes. We can hear you.
Now I can't hear you.
>> Hello, can you hear me?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can hear you now.
>> Wonderful.
My name is James.
I'm an educator.
And co-Chair in Ottawa County.
I'm calling you straight from where I coach our eight-year-old boy is here.
And the way the map is drawn right now, the entire team, we would be represented by three different Congressional districts.
Despite the fact that the boys all live two miles apart from each other.
The Commission shouldn't divide Ottawa County as it has currently done in their proposal. Despite the fact that Ottawa County is the fastest growing County in the state, it's now being treated as a point of interest.
The Commission has an obligation, a constitutional obligation for Ottawa County because it is a community of interest.
Not just for the importance to the state but because of its shared economy, heritage and history.
Ottawa County truly is unique.
It's unfortunate no one from the Commission is from this side of West Michigan to really understand that, but that is why I'm here today.
I'm here to speak on behalf of Ottawa County and our future dividing us into three Congressional districts takes away our Federal voice.

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I ask also that as you move forward you do consider partisan fairness as a way to promote legislative common ground and compromise.
And reject legislative extremism.
Thank you very much.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Katherine.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: She is number 12.
Please allow us a moment to unmute you.
>> Good morning.
I'm happy -- can you hear me?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you.
>> Okay. I'm happy to see the Congressional District that includes the City of Midland with the Tri-Cities in Flint.
Similar to the proposed state District that's been drawn, State Senate District sorry.
These communities are connected in so many countless ways and economically culturally and strong familial ties and share the I-75 corridor and makeup the Great Lakes region.
The proposed Tri-City Flint Congressional District creates a District that is close to 0 political bias giving voters a chance to choose politicians fairly instead of the other way around.
Thank you for your hard work and having the districts being drawn in the open with public scrutiny is enormous and vital undertaking and thank you so much.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Phil H.
>> Thank you for allowing me to speak. And yesterday I found yesterday's conversation of deliberation is disappointing. Time and again residents of Ottawa County define and detail how Ottawa County itself is a community of interest. Map 187 establishes a clear lakeshore District that keeps Ottawa County whole. And arguments that try to separate Ottawa County are not based on reality. And maps that divide Georgetown township along Cottonwood Drive directly divide a community for no reason. Maps try to reach out and draw Grand Rapids and Muskegon are dividing Ottawa County for a manufacturing community of interest. How can Georgetown Township in Ottawa County consider themselves part of the lakeshore not be, according to these maps, and maps drawn with Kalamazoo and lakeshore communities.
This is nonsensical.
Kalamazoo is not a lakeshore community. Ottawa County and Muskegon County have much more in common than Muskegon and Grand Rapids.
As you continue to deliberate, please keep Ottawa County whole.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Cindy Weir.
>> Number 14.

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>> Hi, can you hear me?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.
>> I just wanted to say a big thank you to the Commission for including the City of Midland in a Congressional District along with Bay City, Saginaw and Flint.
These cities are a core of Mid-Michigan and a community of interest.
Midland, I'm happy that Midland will finally be included in an area that makes economic and geographic sense.
Please continue to look at partisan bias when tweaking maps.
And thanks for the Commission for all the hard work they are doing.
Have a good day.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Clare Ott.
>> Good morning. I'm Clare Ott. Thank you for your work.
I know yesterday you were working on ways that you could make the draft State House map more fair.
I've lived in Battle Creek area for 45 years and only recently moved to Kalamazoo.
It seems like Kalamazoo voters are packed into a couple of districts, not giving us a proper chance for fair representation in Lansing.
And I believe the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek area is somewhere you could take a look to achieve the State House fairness you and the people of Michigan, we the people are looking for.
Thank you for your endless work on this critical project.
Claire.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Mary Murphy number 16.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Did I skip Clare-Ott? Benjamin Ratner, number 17.
>> Can you hear me?
I'm Ben Ratner. I grew up in Ann Arbor. I graduated from Engle Elementary School, Cabin Middle School and Huron High School. And although I now live in Detroit, my family still lives in Ann Arbor and I take pride calling myself a County.
I feel compelled to speak today because I volunteered my time to advocate for this Commission and proudly voted for it back in 2018.
I believe strongly that everyday people are smart enough to make these decisions and draw maps that are fair.
My recommendation to the Commission today is simple.
To avoid packing together Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti both of which contain substantial communities of color and have distinct identities, please reconsider your drawing of State Senate District 27 as it currently stands.

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There are better ways to draw the District in the region of the state to strengthen the overall map and crucially avoid packing more than 95,000 people of color into a single District.
Thank you for your time and hard work.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Holly.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Holly, if you can unmute yourself, you are free to address the Commission.
>> I have.
Can you hear me now?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you.
>> Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.
Muskegon County is a lakeshore community.
The City of Muskegon is a coastal community.
It even has cruise ships that dock here, bringing passengers from Canada and visitors across the globe to our shops and restaurants.
Muskegon County itself has shared economic interests with communities along the lakeshore such as Grand Haven and Holland and Ottawa County.
Map 187 is representative of the Muskegon community as a whole.
And protects the lakeshore.
Please keep the lakeshore together.
It's a community of similar interests.
Please enact map 187, District 9.
Thank you for your time and consideration.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Edith Ford.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Jennifer Austin.
>> Sorry, I'm trying to start my camera but there we go can you hear me.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.
>> My name is Jennifer Austin from the City of Midland. I would like to thank the Commission for placing the City of Midland with Tri-Cities in Flint and Congressional District 11, in maps 200, 201 and 202 on the portal. I hope the Commission will keep Midland, Bay City, Saginaw and Flint in a Congressional District. These cities each have a population between 33,000 and 96,000. And Midland is not the smallest of these cities.
We all have an industrial based economy that supports small business and service industries surrounding them. No other cities north of Midland compare in size until you reach the UP. Even Mount Pleasant to the west of us is smaller by 17,000. We are urban suburban area and should have the representation that reflects that. I also ask that you continue to assess partisan fairness and create a map that is as close to 0 political bias as possible. And we deserve a map that allows the voters to select the

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representatives rather than map up the map choosing our representatives for us. I would also like to thank all of you for all of the hard work you are doing and everything that you put up with in some of the hearings.
I really appreciate it.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.
Thank you for addressing the Commission. Percy Johnson.
>> Percy.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you.
>> We put you guys in place with this proposal with people not politicians.
So please continue to make this about people and not politicians.
Draw the maps up so it's an equal balance.
And it's so important that you guys remember to stay focused on making this about the people and not the politicians, keep the community balanced as much as possible.
Gary, I want to thank you for asking me to listen to Troy and other parts because it sounds like this is what you are trying to do to balance it out so we have it's not partisan favor.
So please and please go back to at least a minute and a half or two minutes.
We got people rushing, trying to get their point across and you got to remember to keep this about the people and not the politicians.
Give the people a chance to speak.
And consider looking at the AFLCIO map.
I know AFLCIO has a strong.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Sterling Brewer.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Number 22 and 23 are not currently present.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, Coroline Ross?
>> Coroline.
Good, morning.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Good morning.
>> This is one reason why we need better Internet in the state.
My name is Caroline Ross. I'm from St. Louis, Gratiot County. I'm a member of UAW Local 6,000, State of Michigan employees. And active in the UAW cap and am the current statewide Chair of UAW State of Michigan retired workers.
We represent approximately 20,000 active and retired union members in all 83 Counties.
The goal of this Commission is to develop districts to provide partisan fairness.
It's imperative the current boundaries be corrected to allow the Michigan citizens fair representation and to ensure equal voting power.
It's been said Michigan is a leaning democrat state.
And yet our maps lean republican.
That to me is a disproportionate advantage.

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One of the ways in h which I believe we can do that is specific to the Kalamazoo area.
I'm going to reiterate splitting the east side and the west side of Kalamazoo based on the different communities of interests there you have the large student population due to the University.
And on the west side and then the east side is quite a different community that I think deserves its own representation.
I believe that the Portage area is split correctly but should be kept separate from Kalamazoo as well as those are drawn today.
I do want to state that I like the U.S. Congressional Apple map draft.
Which combines Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids.
They have similar economic structures, university populations, and a large commuter population which includes my husband.
Folks who travel between the two cities for work and school.
With that thank you so much for your time and your attention.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. James L.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: James, if you are unable to unmute yourself you are free to address the Commission.
James you're unmuted and free to address the Commission.
James, can you hear us? It looks like James might be experiencing some technical issues and we can move on to the next participate.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Let's move on to Molly M.
>> Hello, my name is Molly M and I lived in Midland for 32 years.
I would like to thank you for the collaborative maps that you have drawn.
And the fact that you recognize Midland is a City and a vital part of the tri cities in the Mid-Michigan corridor.
When you work as a team it will be better than working individually.
The only map I have oak where Midland is not with Bay City but if that helps the rest of the state obtain as close to 0 political bias then so be it.
I would like to address the Senate and Congressional maps and ask you continue to view Midland as a City and part of the Mid-Michigan corridor.
You can see the overwhelming support for the maps in the portal.
You can sorry I know that you have comments that Midland is a farming community and that we need to stay with Midland County because of our historic flood.
First let me say we are far from a farming community.
We are a manufacturing community just like the rest of the cities in the Mid-Michigan corridor.
Like I said earlier I have lived in Midland my entire adult years and very active in our community.
I don't know one farmer.

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Secretary of State Benson I have a handout for her.
Your secretary I have a handout.
Can I have the handout?
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Are you trying to give us something.
We can accept it.
>> Yes, to Secretary of State Benson is she here, she is the secretary without a vote.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Secretary Benson is not here today.
>> I will give it to her in her office, I guess. I'm James Gallant, Marquette Suicide Prevention Coalition. These are my opinions. Please consider fulfilling your fiduciary duty to pursue due diligence to avoid cost of litigation by requesting a report and recommendations from your attorneys concerning the legal claims contained in the attached house fiscal agency reports concerning MICRC's constitutional beginnings and required oversight.
These reports suggest that the prop two constitutional amendment merely revived an albeit inactive Commission already contained in the Constitution, the Commission on legislative apportionment. In those reports, Ms. McInerney cited a ruling in the Voters Not Politicians cross-complaint issued by the Michigan Supreme Court to support her claims.
Therefore, in my opinion, the attached rules of procedure approved by majority vote of the former Michigan Commission on legislative apportionment have been wrongfully blocked by Secretary of State Joyce Benson from being forward for use by the MICRC as a revived iteration of the Commission already contained in the Constitution for the benefit of her democratic party and to the detriment of the republican party.
Also, please possibly identify Secretary of State Benson has effectively fulfilled her duty to transmit the certified language of the constitutional amendment to the director of management and budget.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you, Mr. Gallant. Your 90 seconds have expired.
Thank you, Mr. Gallant.
Number 13.
>> And number 14.
>> I'm Ann from Lincoln Township.
Which is a part of Midland County.
I'm reiterating the importance of keeping Midland and Gladwin County together in their entirety in the State House, State Senate and Congressional maps.
I specifically support the oak State House map and Commissioner Lange's map for the State Senate and Congress.
I feel that these maps best represent the 2020 flood damaged areas that are still recovering and restoring homes, businesses, multiple dams, bridges as well as two lakes and the Tibawassee watershed.

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Midland and Gladwin Counties are linked together by this watershed and the importance of its combined management is crucial for the environment, recreation and public safety.
As we as having unified representation in Lansing and D.C. which will give these counties further support for their areas and needs.
Before and during the floods these Counties were together.
And should continue together for the disaster us complete recovery and restoration process.
Therefore I'm asking the Commission to focus on the people's needs.
And to honor the maps that keep Midland and Gladwin Counties together in their entirety.
Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 14.
>> Hello, my name is Susan.
I'm here from Nester Township and located in Ross common County.
And I'm here to first thank you for all of you being here and hearing our comments and taking the notes to remember because I know there's a lot of information coming in your direction.
And Nester Township is a very rural area despite where we are located which is on the border of also Gladwin County and for an example, I have a Gladwin address but I live in Nester Township in Ross common County and nester is one of the smaller Townships we have maybe 180 registered voters.
Therefore we have some challenges.
In terms of getting fair representation.
And it's very important for our community of interest or my community of interest of Nester Township to keep us included in the rural Counties around us because of our border we could very easily be pulled into perhaps Gladwin County or into the more southern districts.
We have large land mass.
We have very small full time residents in our community.
And therefore it is the community of interest of my choice for how we function in our community.
Mutually aid is very important to us with other rural Townships in our County.
And in order for us to provide safety, the basic needs for our community which we all share in common.
It's just that we have additional challenges because of our very rural and small full time residents.
So please consider keeping Nester part of Ross common and part of District 103 thank you.

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More specifically I would like to comment in support of Commissioner Chairwoman Szetela's Washtenaw State House draw and breaks Ann Arbor into four different districts and joins on the northern and I lived in many different parts of the City.
The northern part of the City goes into the area around Brighton and given the increasing housing prices and the lack of affordable housing in the City of Ann Arbor more and more people especially younger people like myself are moving into southern Livingston and other areas surrounding Ann Arbor.
Which form communities of interest.
It's only a 20 minute drive up the highway.
I know a number of people a number of my friends that live in the Brighton area that work in Ann Arbor.
And so that would form a strong community of interest and would help to improve your partisan fairness metrics.
So once again I would encourage you to look at Chairwoman Szetela's Washtenaw County State House plan in regards to both communities of interest and partisan fairness.
Thank you so much for your time.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 40.
>> I support Commissioner Lange's plan for the Congressional map.
I know many will highlight and rightly so have done here today.
The importance of keeping all of Midland and Gladwin Counties together because of our oppressing and continued watershed needs.
I want to also provide another important community of interest as well.
Our healthcare system which has been brought up.
Our healthcare delivery system, Mid-Michigan health is based in the City of Midland and has hospitals and healthcare centers serving residents in Gladwin, Gratiot, Clare, Ogemaw Counties.
In fact, it's the largest employer in Midland Gladwin Gratiot and Ogemaw Counties.
During the pandemic it's been imperative for the hospitals to advocate with one voice to get us the resources we need.
It also allows residents to have a unified voice when advocating for healthcare policy.
And impacts our area.
I support Congressional Lange's map that reflects this as well.
Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you.
Number 41 and 42.
>> Hello, my name is Richard spring and I'm a resident of Charlevoix from Charlevoix County.

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You have been told your maps are good enough but by your own evaluation they continue to be bias.
Michigan is a leaning democrat state.
But all the maps currently draw continue to favor republicans.
The party that receives the most votes should win the most seats.
These maps don't do that.
That is unfair.
Which is not much improvement over the deliberately gerrymandered maps from 2010.
So far current maps have a way to go before they can be considered fair.
Thank you for your work thus far and I urge you to finish that work with truly fair maps for everyone.
Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 42 and 43.
>> My name is Cassandra I'm from Midland.
First, I'd like to thank the Commissioners for the work they have done creating the maps and listening to our voices so far.
I am thrilled to be able to add my voice to that process.
As someone who grew up in buy City and now lives in Midland, I'm happy to see the area called Mid-Michigan united in one Congressional District, that is the Tri-Cities and Flint.
This area contains mid-sized cities with strong industries that anchor each one.
We have shared educational connections for example Delta College, Saginaw valley state University, our high school sports leagues and academic and band competitions.
There are several connected hospital systems.
Covenant McClaren and the birch District is close to having 0 partisan bias and means the District will be competitive and therefore more responsive to all voters not just from one party.
As much as I like this fair and competitive birch map, I do have one suggestion and would like to see more of the County of Midland included.
You can put Tuscola in District ten where it more closely aligns.
Keeping the Tri-Cities in Flint together in District 11 with bit more of Midland County would meet the criteria established by the voters when they passed prop two.
It would give my area the fair and competitive District that we hoped for.
Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 43.
>> Hello, my name is Alison Wilcox and I'm from Midland.
I'd like to thank you for birch and Pine and keep the Tri-Cities together.

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The medium sized cities are united by businesses and educational and cultural institutions.
we also have common concerns regarding infrastructure like roads and Dams and we are all part of the Tibawassee Saginaw watershed.
I would like to encourage you that any District that includes Midland should also include adjacent Townships rather than ending at the City limits.
Like many cities these outlying areas are part of the Midland community and you can include them putting rural Townships in the thumb out into a different districts.
Because of past gerrymandering Midland has been included with Districts that are mostly rural and small towns.
It has resulted in districts that lean so far republican that it's difficult to recruit democrats to run.
Historically Midland County has been split into two House Districts.
Both of which lean heavily republican.
Republicans win by such large margins that the representatives don't even -- representatives said to me you can talk to me if you want to but it won't make any difference.
For this reason I ask you to keep partisan fairness in mind and I do believe that Midland can be adequately represented if we had more than one representative.
Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 44 and 45.
>> Hello, my name is Cathleen.
And I was a passionate volunteer for prop two.
And it was an exhilarating as an ordinary citizen taking the redistricting away from the legislature.
I'm a long time resident of Midland and my particular preference is for voting districts that place the City of Midland with our Mid-Michigan area urban communities of the Tri-Cities in Flint.
The maps that keep Midland County in a Congressional District with surrounding rural don't make sense to me.
That kind of District turns a blind eye to communities of interest and helps preserve a strong republican lean.
As for the flooding in Midland County, if we have two voices in Washington working for flood relief all the better.
And the shared waterways of Midland County should not overshadow the other community of interest that we share with the urban communities.
Also impacted are the Saginaw watershed as they are part of the many statewide, I'm sorry, the Dam failures and the flooding that impacted the Saginaw watershed are part

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of many statewide disasters Michiganders are experiencing due to our failing infrastructure.
Oh, boy.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. We would love to hear from you at the public comment portal as well.
Where you can finish your remarks so number 45.
>> I'm 44.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Sorry your 44 please go.
>> Okay, good afternoon.
Thank you for all the work you've done and for allowing me to speak and everyone else here.
My name is Marie.
I'm from Midland Michigan.
And Midland is a diverse urban community.
Which shares much in common with Saginaw, Bay City including a watershed as well as Flint.
These communities have shared common interests while also reflecting a diversity of political perspectives.
All the citizens of these communities deserve to have their voices and concerns and needs addressed by being placed in Congressional Districts that reflect that diversity.
In a fair and representative manner.
Maps that separate Midland from the cities of Bay City, Saginaw and Flint and instead place Midland in districts that only consist of the rural communities that surround it will dilute the voices of Midland's diversity.
The effect will be that the rural concerns will overshadow the minority concerns of the diverse Midland population.
And fair representation will be quashed.
So I'm urging you to please keep Midland in the same districts Saginaw, Bay City and Flint.
The point of having a nonpartisan committee, yourselves to redraw the voting District in Michigan is the efforts of one party and being this power.
Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 46 and 47.
>> Hello, my name is Jennifer Austin City of Austin I've been logging the comments on the portal concerning Midland in a spreadsheet from May to October 24 there were 905 and 728 were in favor of a Tri-Cities grouping that is 80% of all comments on the subject responding favorably to either a Tri-City Senate District Tri-Cities and Flint Congressional District and/or Midland and Bay City House District.

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I want to look at this from a one person one voice perspective because some people commented more than once 305 and 209 were favor for the districts at 69%.
178 of the total 305 were from Midland.
And 108 favored Tri-Cities legislative districts at 61%.
80% of total comments in favor of Tri-Cities together, 69% of total commenters in favor of the Tri-Cities together and 61% of a Midland respondents in favor of the Tri-Cities together a majority across the board.
And listening to the comments in the coming weeks that you give the same weight to the preceding testimony as you give to today's. A majority of people have already asked you to create Tri-cities legislative groups and you listened.
We are extremely grateful for the fair districts you have created and which representative must earn votes of their constituents before the election and also while in office.
We ask you to keep the Tri-Cities together and Flint together in a Congressional District and maintain the Midland based House District that is almost a perfect 0 political bias.
Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you. Number 47 and 48.
>> My name is Claudia. I live in Midland County. Thank you so much, Commissioners, for your service for this redistricting process.
My home for the last 40 years has been in the City of Midland.
I volunteered for many political campaigns going door to door and plan events.
I observed firsthand how gerrymander campaign finance and miss information have kept one party in power absolutely.
This one party rule has allowed legislatures to dismiss the ideas and concerns of 45% of Midland County voters.
I'm looking forward to as close to 0 partisan bias in the new legislative districts.
When I tell people where I live, I always say Midland you know west of Bay City.
Near the Saginaw Bay.
In the Tri-Cities.
The Tri-Cities in Flint are mid-sized towns with similar strengths and issues.
We have friends and family in the Tri-Cities.
We have -- we all live in the same Saginaw Bay Tibawassee River watershed.
My neighborhood was flooded when the Dam broke.
In May of 2020.
And then the Tibawassee River continued downstream to our friends and families in Saginaw County.
Proximity watershed, mid-sized towns friends and families, colleges and economic activity are our commonalities, thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 48.

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I support the Congressional map birch, the state map cherry and the State House map Pine.
Please start with these maps.
And then continue to improve them until you get the partisan bias as close to possible 0.
Districts need to be competitive for us to have effective representation.
Political fairness must be reflected in all of the final maps.
Thank you so much.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you.
Number 52.
>> Good afternoon, Commissioners.
I'm Chris.
From Midland County.
I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work, determination and consideration as you draw these maps.
I consider it heroic endeavor, much ap appreciated.
One refers to the Dam breach areas of Midland and Gladwin Counties as being a community of interest.
I would suggest the flooded area likely wouldn't have happened had the area had good, motivated representation.
Gerrymandered locations most often produce under motivated and lack luster holders because they are a shoe in for election or reelection.
If the Congressional districts encompassing all the Saginaw watershed are split up in the fashion of Congressional map birch, the flood area will gain the clout of potentially having two legislatures with common goals instead of one.
Leaving this area intact is actually a detriment to obtaining effective representation.
Furthermore the Tri-Cities are very much a natural community of interest.
With shared industries, agricultural, colleges and universities, and sharing in the same watershed.
They should be maintained as such.
Therefore I support Congressional map birch.
I also support State Senate map cherry.
State House map Pine.
Please stick with these maps and continue to improve them.
To get the partisan bias as close to 0 as possible.
Thank you very much.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have number 53? Are you over 53? Thank you.
You can.
But let's wait until we see, yeah, I believe we may have finished our public comment that has been signed up, signed up public comment.

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>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Very good.
That means we are on to number 35 Martin G.
>> Hello, can you hear me?
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Yes, we can.
>> Awesome thank you so much for having me.
I'd like to start out with a little quote.
Neither the fanatics or faint hearted are needed. Your duty as democrats, republicans and independents is not to your party alone but your community, your state and your country.
Your duty is not the preservation of political power but the preservation of justice and peace.
So let us not quarrel amongst ourselves on the dignity future of our state is at stake.
Let us not be petty on our cause is so great.
I currently live in Shelby Township and lived in St. Clair shores.
I won the democratic primary for the 8th State Senate District and currently running in that right now.
The District is drawn very unfairly 2-1 in republican favor and noticed how it can be signs getting stolen and it's been an uphill battle.
I would like to say though your job transcends partisan ship and if the situations were reversed in the future when I do plan to run for the State Senate again if it is drawn in the democratic favor I will not run.
I'm saying that right now.
Because our leaders duty is to serve the people, not exploit them.
Thank you for your service.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for your comments.
Number 36 Danielle.
>> Hi, can you hear me? My name is Danielle from the City of Midland.
I'm bothered by the one issue subject focus for many commenters related to Midland.
Flooding is not the only issue I want my representatives for maps to be concerned with.
Michigan in general has flooding issues and will continue to due to climate change.
Midland is not the only community where this is a concern.
The state will need to address flooding as a whole and basing maps on only the watersheds and past flood events does not represent Midland's best interest.
I want to thank you for the maps which keep the Tri-Cities together to truly represent the best interests of these communities.
I want to encourage you as a Commission to continue to focus on political fairness over lower ranked criteria such as County lines as required by the rules of the Commission.
Thank you for the work you have done thus far and remembering that funny looking maps are not gerrymandering as long as they meet the criteria.
Thank you.

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Saginaw Bay City Midland and Flint should be together not only because they have so much in common but also because it creates districts with close to 0 political bias.
And it improves over all fairness of the maps.
I noticed that Midland republicans have consistently asked for Midland and Gladwin to remain together for flood recovery until Commissioner Lange released map number 243.
This gerrymandered map puts Gladwin in another District.
And it splits the watershed.
But it gives congressman Molenaar a safe seat.
Suddenly there are more calls to make Midland a westward facing District and support for Commissioner Lange's map.
I hope the Commission keeps this in mind reviewing concerns about flooding because when they had a chance to get a safe seat the republicans suddenly didn't care about helping Gladwin with flood recovery.
And at the same time they exposed the watershed issue as a red hearing.
That is all.
Thank you for your attention, consideration and hard work.
We will see you again, I'm sure.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 39.
>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Madam Chair.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, Commissioner Lange?
>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I would just like to have a point of personal privilege.
I would just like to say my maps were not gerrymandered.
There was though intent of gerrymandering.
And I do not like the accusation and I just wanted to say that as a point of personal privilege.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: You're welcome.
I feel like all of our maps have been accused of being gerrymandered.
So all right moving on number 39, Anthony I'm sorry 39 Anthony Seller.
>> Hi, my most important point today is that the maps are a great improvement over the cheating we've suffered the last two decades but 5% in favor of republicans.
We really worked so hard to get this Commission in place to bring that number to 0.
We really want 0 partisan bias.
Like that is the most important thing.
Thousands of us worked hard to get the law passed.
In 2018.
Because of the partisan bias we've suffered under for so long.
In my County Washtenaw County we have enough population to justify six House Districts, not just five.

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I was inspired by the knitting analogy a woman presented on Rochester Hills on September 30th so here is my analogy.
A very popular proposal passed in 2018 to amend the Michigan State Constitution.
Tasked a group of 13 people with designing the wheel there are 7 including size cost efficiency et cetera.
We will have to use it for the land transportation for the next decade.
The group worked tirelessly with a four sided wheel and six then eight.
As time was running out, they came up with a 12 sided wheel this was the product of their efforts, this is the proposed to the people of Michigan.
But another group came up with a different design that did a much better job of meeting the constitutionally mandated criteria particularly with respect to efficiency.
They designed a round wheel.
The 13 person group knows about the design and opportunity to adopt it and would they let ego pride or anything else to adopt the superior round wheel.
Efficiency is the efficiency gap.
Your maps are the 12 sided wheel and the promote the vote maps are the AFLCIO maps are the round wheel.
Please do the right thing.
Provide us with the best maps that are available.
There is too much riding on it.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 17.
>> My name is Linda and I live in Bay County thank you Commissioners for all that you have done.
Not an easy job.
I M a going to represent the three cities that should stay together.
Midland Bay City Saginaw.
I've heard various arguments on the how this is formed.
They are communities of interest.
We talked about this.
The education, the I75 corridor and keeping the agricultural, urban and getting their setting their best interests at heart.
It is in these communities that we feel that in the past this has not occurred.
They have been separated and so the representative Senator of that area does not meet the needs of the entire community.
It is urgent, this is my opportunity to speak how I feel after 60 years of voting and witnessing this.
I beg you to be careful how you put these maps together.
It's going to last a decade.
And how you choose it.

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I'd like to thank the Commission for the work they are doing for the residents of Michigan.
I also ask the Commission not to split the City of Flint for the State House seats.
The City deserves its own representation for all the events after all the events that has happened to the City in the last ten years.
Partisan fairness should be the number one consideration when drawing the lines.
That is why I support the AFLCIO fair maps project.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 36.
>> Hello, my name is Katherine. I have been here for 60 years and I partner with the neighborhood action Council.
We work alongside churches schools organizations in the community Black clubs building and restoring and enriching our neighborhoods.
The redistricting maps that I have seen does not work for Flint.
We look like a pie cut into several pieces.
Who represents us? Who are our representatives? And how would the legislature help us in this way? We need a different map one that represents Flint as a whole.
We live in Genesee County and want to be represented as voters and taxpayers in our County and we need a different map.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 37.
>> Too tall right here.
All right.
Hello Commission.
My name is Raymond from by City Michigan and here to represent the young people as a community of interest.
I'm thankful for the current work you're doing.
Thankful for the Congressional map so far.
And I'm thankful for you guys taking on the voice of the people.
I think it's important to remember that you all live here in the state as well as us and you care very much about the future.
So as a young person that grew up in the Tri-City area that came from the public education system, we are a community of interest.
We don't see Tri-City area with boundaries.
We are connected by our family.
Our friends and our community.
We have helped out with the Midland County flood and helped out with the Flint water crisis and elections.
Young people here want jobs.
We want education and homes and a true community.

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This would also likely mean 0 African/American representatives from Flint.
Flint has been negatively impacted by past decisions of the state Government.
Resulting in emergency managers and the Flint water crisis.
We need more representation.
Not less.
Please consider these community concerns as you go through the final versions of this map.
A map was submitted in your portal on behalf of Flint community with reference of P723.
P723.
P723.
This map is not perfect.
But it is a better option for our community, from our City and for places that people call home throughout our City.
We ask you ensure fair and equitable representation in our community.
Because we need it and we deserve it and we want it.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 157.
>> Good evening, Commissioners.
Thank you very much for your hard work.
My name is Mary.
And I live in the City of Midland but I work in Saginaw and my daughter attends high school in Saginaw.
There are suggestions that the reason that Midland should be put in the same legislative District as Gladwin and Isabella County is because Midland shares the same watershed as these two Counties.
This is, in fact, not logical reasoning.
I will share was you why this reasoning is wrong.
By this reasoning Midland should actually be in the same legislative District with Saginaw and Bay City instead because these three Counties all share parts of the Saginaw Bay watershed.
Although Midland County does indeed share a watershed with Gladwin and Isabella Counties the impact of the communities that share the Saginaw Bay watershed is undistributed because part of Midland into the Tibawassee Township which is why parts of Midland County are regulated by the Saginaw area storm water authority.
Furthermore free land and other parts of Saginaw County were devastated by the aftermath of Midland's flood in 2020.
Plus pollution from Midland industries drains downstream and has been a longstanding problem with these parts of Saginaw County for many years.

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We call Saginaw Midland and Bay City the Tri-Cities because these three cities together have a longstanding common economic shares and please keep Tri-Cities together in the same legislative districts because we need to work together for our common issues.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 158.

>> Greetings, my name is Ashley young and I would like to say that Flint needs its own representative.

The City should not be split.

Genesee County will not have minority representation with the current maps because of the split of the City of Flint and African/American population.

Flint has is and has historically been faced with unique challenges facing the City and we need our own representative.

Based on the current maps, that may not happen.

And so we thank you for the work that you have done.

You have not done it in vain.

And I can only imagine what it is to be in your position and we ask that you continue working.

Because you accepted this position to serve the people and to serve the people is to take those things into consideration.

So go back to the drawing board and like the gentleman with the hard hat said we believe you can draw fair map.

Keep working at it and don't split us up.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. All right that was a great Finale I believe that concludes our public live in person public commentary for the evening.

Is there anybody I missed? All right without objection we are going to take a ten-minute recess.

It is currently 7:08.

Hearing no objection we are going to recess until 7:20.

Thank you very much everybody.

At that point we will move on to the remote commentary.

[Recess]

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 7:23 p.m.

Will the secretary please call the roll.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely Madam Chair.

Commissioners please say present when I call your name.

If you're attending today's meeting remotely, please disclose during roll call you are attending remotely as well as where you are attending from.

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To make sure that we give Bangla Town a voice with respect to representation.
Please review the State Senate maps in Troy or the State Senate map.
We want to make sure that the AAPI community and Troy is not disenfranchised so please consider including Sterling Heights more so where there is an Asian community.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Jennifer Austin.

>> Hello Jennifer Austin.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Jennifer can I stop you? After you use your one minute can you stay on for a second? I actually have a follow-up question for you so don't jump off at one minute.

>> Hello Jennifer Austin City of Midland.
I wanted to let the Commission I and many people from Midland and Tri-Cities appreciate the important work you are doing.
I believe the Commission has partisan fairness and the best interests of Michigan at heart.
The maps are not ready yet but I have faith in the process and also in the people who have undertaken this mission.
I'm especially grateful for the Tri-City drawn for Midland Bay and Saginaw there is 3-4% difference in the lean and it's not negotiable and the District is winnable by any party.
I'm looking forward to the candidates that will run in this election because the best candidate will have to prove themselves to voters and that is the best outcome for the Tri-Cities.
I'm a democrat but not asking for safe blue districts.
We want to have a chance, districts with near 0 political bias will boost voter turnout and engagement and bring more people to the table so all voices are heard.
And that is the goal of this isn't it to make the voices of Michiganders heard.
Thank you so much for making that possible.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so my follow-up question for you is in a previous hearing you had mentioned that you had specifically tabulated and calculated the comments related to Midland and that you had analyzed that it was I think 60% in favor being with the Tri-Cities.
I'm wondering if you have that analysis and if you would feel comfortable sending it to us.

>> I can definitely do that.
So I don't know if that was at the last time because I've done this twice.
So the most recent tabulation was the one I talked about in Gaylord maybe.
I don't remember now.
Yeah, I can sent you that.
The Google document is that what you're looking for?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, just the data.

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economic impact of these communities. They are linked not only in the recovery but their culture and in their environment. So please consider the integration of these into the maps. We like Commissioner Lange's Congressional map but I think the integration of Midland and Gladwin County along with the City of Midland is important. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Nicholas, number 46.

>> Hello, my name is Nicholas long time resident of St. Clair shores in Macomb County. I see what you do with the latest Senate map drawing the cities together in District 7. But I see this is not enough of a commonality for the cities to be considered a community of interest. People who live up in new Baltimore and Anchorville and to the island have no interest in being associated with Wayne County. This is probably why they live so far away from them. Especially considering the residents of Harper Woods are being disenfranchise by being included with the cities along Lake St. Clair. People who live in Wayne should not be included in the Senate District. I appreciate the work you are doing but please think about this and please make some changes to this map. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. We are going to go back to 14 Porter Abbott.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Porter if you can unmute yourself, you are free to address the Commission.

>> Can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Good morning.

>> Thank you. Good morning.

My full name is Horice. I'm a long time citizen of Leelanau County and wanted to add my voice to continue moving to partisan balance and redistricting. I also wanted to comment on the effect of succession of earlier maps with their continuing partisan imbalance was having on me and my fellow citizens in Leelanau and it's paranoid a hidden agenda which is the last thing we need in the committal climate. You have been working hard to correct this imbalance and aiming to achieve a clean break from the political gerrymandering that has been the rule of Michigan every ten years. Keep up the good work and thank you for letting me speak.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. All right we are going to go to number 47, which is Ciara.

>> Good morning, Commissioners. I'm from Mid-Michigan and today I'd like to say thank you for the latest Senate map. And for listening to Michiganders. This is the most fair Senate map so far and could be adopted as a final draft. Please work on a partisanly fair State House map as well. Regarding the Senate map, I like that District 35 includes both Mount Pleasant and Alma areas and see that District 1 includes the Tri-Cities as it should. So thank you for your work and keep it up.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Marie number 48.

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>>.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Marie if you can unmute yourself, you are free to address the Commission.

>>.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Marie if you can unmute yourself, you are free to address the Commission. It looks like Marie may be experiencing audio issues, I recommend we move on to the next participant.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay all right we will move on to number 49, Josie.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not currently present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, 50, chase Murphy.

>> Hello.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you.

>> Hi, my name is chase Murphy I was born and raised and currently reside in the Grand Rapids area. I'm urging you to fix the area maps for the State Senate. I would like to sue a few changes and get rid of farming they are not with GR and Walker and heard a lot about keeping Ottawa whole and rural rural. You probably remember that. The most important thing to have community of interest and a State Senate District that can be won by either party move the border between 23 to 24 and follow wealthy along Fulton splits the heritage neighborhood. And they talked about the line and did not want to move it to split the Black population but that is incorrect. They are only 10% Black so moving these precincts from 23 to 24 increases the black voting age. Add the population difference adding the northern difference in Gaines Township in Kentwood school District and have a significant minority population. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 51, Chris Andrews.

>> Can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Okay, hi. I'm Chris Andrews from Haslett. And thank you for considering individual elections for fairness analysis. Here are some requests. Analyze Senate maps using gubernatorial elections when Senators are elected. Outcomes might be much different. The 2016 Presidential election was a virtual tie. As such 2020 and 55 are ideal fairness. Please save and post partisan analysis of completed maps including District projections so we can make informed comments. Consider other fairness metrics besides seat votes. Three Senate seats categorized as democratic have victory margins of 51% or less. These are toss up not democratic. I've posted detailed comment at #how fair. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Allen Poehl.

>> Pail but I get that a lot. I wanted to say a couple quick things one I know lefty activists can rave about 0 partisan fairness until the end of time but at the end of the day communities of interest out rank partisan fairness in the Constitution. Your lawyers

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Tri Cities

Basic Info

Submitter: Cindy Munro Munro
Location: Midland
Submitted: 11/4/2021
Type: written
ID: w8730

Tags

#midland

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

I would like to thank the Commission for drawing a state Senate district that includes the cities of Midland, Bay City, and Saginaw… also known as the Tri Cities. These 3 cities are an obvious community of interest who all have industrial based businesses, a shared tri city airport, several shared media outlets, regional colleges and universities, and together we are considered the Great Lakes Bay Area … . That is what I believe is considered a community of interest. That is my comment regarding the State Senate District and I urge the commission to keep that map.
I would also like to request the commission to include the City of Midland in a Congressional map along with Bay City, Saginaw and Flint. These cities are the core of Mid-Michigan and a community of interest for all the same reasons stated above for the State Senate district. We identify as the Tri Cities, and should stay together in both the State Senate and Congressional districts.
Thank you for the work you are doing, hearing us, and making changes based on our comments. I am looking forward to seeing the new maps with districts drawn that are fair and competitive, which will in turn make for better governing.

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Keep Midland County as is

Basic Info

Submitter: David Johnson
Location: Midland
Submitted: 11/4/2021
Type: written
ID: w8763

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Do NOT split up Midland County and align any of it with Saginaw, Bay City and Flint. Keep Midland County with Gladwin and Isabella counties.
David and Susan Johnson
2440 N Jefferson Rd,
Midland, MI 48642

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Map it right - the Tri-Cities

Basic Info

Submitter: Kelly Krause
Location: Sanford
Submitted: 11/4/2021
Type: written
ID: w8758

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Please put the Midland-Bay City- Saginaw districts on at least ONE of the maps that you put forward for the 45 day comment period. You had this district on the original Pine map, but then it was removed on all the versions that you are now considering.
These three cities are communities of interest to each other. They have physical, (Rivers and watershed basins, bay areas) economic, and educational connections(automotive workers, colleges and universities). It just makes sense that they have representation by members of Congress that have a connection to their cultures and each other.

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Redistricting of Midland and Gladwin

Basic Info

Submitter: Patrick Smith
Location: Midland
Submitted: 11/4/2021
Type: written
ID: w8722

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Please keep the counties of Midland and Gladwin together in the redistricting plan. We have many of the same needs and concerns such as the flood issues and reconstruction of the dams lost in last year's flood. These two counties share many other needs such as our MidMichigan Health system and the Saginaw Bay Watershed.

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gerrymandering in this District. And that is just not the definition of gerrymandering. This is a fair competitive District. In which either party has the potential to win. So it just doesn't fit those talking points. And please.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 13, Ciara-Lowe.

>> Thank you for incorporating feedback but the State House maps still need work. Partisan fairness is the most important thing to keep in mind when drawing the State House map just like the State Senate map. Folks are complaining about gerrymandering tell and focusing on partisan fairness is the way to combat that, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you. Number 14, Lori Lisi.

>> Can you guys hear me yet.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Yes, we can.

>> Okay sorry my name is Lori Lisi from hunting ton Woods and want to thank you for your pain staking work. This is the third time speaking before you and my message is the same. I consistently have been asking for fairness in your maps. Myself and many others stood in the rain and snow to collect signatures for this initiative and went door to door and the message we heard from those at the doors was consistently they would vote for this because of fairness. Your house map is not even close to a 0 efficiency gap. That's a very objective measure that you guys can use to when choosing your final maps. If you are running out of time there is no shame in adopting other ideas.
In fact, there is wisdom in using other good maps that have been submitted to you guys. And I would ask why maps were encouraged to be submitted if there was though intention to possibly use them or look to them. Thank you again for your good faith efforts and keep up the good work, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 16, Laurie Evans.

>> Good morning, can you hear me.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Yes, we can.

>> Thank you, good morning, my name is Lauri Evans 24 resident of Troy. When I first viewed the final drafts of the State House District maps the Commission produced, I was relieved to see a Troy District that kept our City intact and showed attention to communities of interest and partisan fairness these are two of the goals I worked hard for campaigning for proposal two. I'm here because of the suggestion the Commission may now be considering dividing Troy across districts. Undoing partisan fairness and unnecessarily dividing a City that is uniquely united across a diverse population. I'm deeply concerned about a proposal to divide Troy. Excuse me while Troy is a large City the largest in Oakland County it is a unique integrity. We are unified around shared economic, social, educational and recreational resources. Dividing Troy and dividing our representation would create a damaging split in what is a natural community of

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result in the very thing this Commission was designed to eliminate. So to make fair and representative maps these Lake sure communities need to have fair representation and again I advocate for the apple map because I think it does the best job and keeps our lakeshore communities and their interests together. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 61, Donyale-Stephen-Atara.

>> Good morning.

I'm Donyale. I will enter my comments into the portal so you can have my full statement. I've already commented on the maps in the portal but for the record chestnut requires more work. And I do not support version two of cherry since you are unwilling to allow Commissioner Brittini Kellom to make the map more equitable for Detroit and its ability to select an African/American to have a fighting chance to run and win the District. I hope that you will be more open today to completing the Pine version five house map with her assistance. Instead of attempting to mute her. The attempts to silence her voice while addressing the various comments from the African/American community incorporate those comments into a more workable map for our community are disappointing and concerning. Thank you to Commissioner Kellom and Juanita Curry for listening to the concerns of Detroiters. Please continue to make the VRA revisions to the maps. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 62, Kathy Leikhim.

>> My name is Cathy from the City of Midland please supine version five State House map because it keeps Midland whole and connected to Gladwin. And I'm asking why there is no Congressional map that puts Midland and Gladwin back together in a separate digit from Flint. I posted a link to the portal from of a Detroit news Article award Midland Gladwin region 54 million to aid in flood recovery. This Article is a great example of how unified voices and representation helps our community. Please consider a Congressional map that does the same as Pine version five. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 63, Diane Karabetsos.

>> Hello.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Hello we can hear you.

>> Great, I'm Diane I'm an elderly resident of this point. I wanted to comment on what a strong community of interest we are. I feel under Snyder we lost our voice. It's fun to make fun of Grosse Pointers but it's not funny when you lose your voice. We were gerrymandered and diluted in our voice. The top of the points we are connected horizontally with Detroit and the bottom three Grosse Pointe cities and connected with Detroit. But we residents spend a lot of effort, time and money in our own interests on education, social, economic, et cetera. I feel that we don't have a voice. And if you look

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Keep Midland/Bay City together

Basic Info

Submitter: Linda Barth
Location: Midland City
Submitted: 11/5/2021
Type: written
ID: w8795

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

We have waited for more than 10 years and thankfully because of the determination of the citizenry of this state we have finally moved the drawing of voting districts from the state legislature to an INDEPENDENT commission. To get to this point citizens of the state through the hard work of Voters NOT POLITICIANS worked tirelessly to get this issue on the ballot. When the people of Michigan voted, the initiative passed by nearly a million votes, or 61.27% of the Michigan voters. The task you accepted came with great responsibility. It required that you ignore the pleading of those more interested in maintain power than fulfilling the will of the people. I'm sure the pressure has been overwhelming. As a citizen my only request of you is that you not take your eye off the ball. This commission is the result of Michigan citizens tired of having their votes "controlled" by politicians. It should be clear enough the path the country is heading if we as citizens and you as the commission do not take the voices of the voters of Michigan seriously. Whether one side sends in 500 responses and another only 250 it should not impact the overall criteria of your work which INCLUDES political fairness. As a business person in Midland for more than 40 years I've watched as the city has time and time again had their votes watered down by adding county townships who have no real commonality. Many times the votes that come out of our city overwhelming favor a proposal or candidate which is then unraveled when rural votes are counted. For the citizens of our city to have a voice in the state legislature they

should be joined with Bay City. I've noticed that those speaking to keep us as one county and also include Gladwin, another highly populated rural community, use the WATERSHED and the FLOOD as a reason to maintain a near status quo. Our flooding in 2020 had more to do with a failed dam system and a decision to preserve city pumping stations then a watershed issue. Bay City and Saginaw are part of the watershed as well so a case could be made that it's just as important to include them. Ours is a city of commerce. Our activities often compliment those of Bay City as theirs compliment ours. I implore you to stay focused on your objective, overall fairness. Don't allow partisan pressure to sway your decision. I appreciate the hard work you've done to this point. It can't be easy being bombarded from every side. I do hope, however, that your highest commitment is to the will of the people for fairer representation. We are counting on you to do the right thing.

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republican plus two independents who are democrats based upon their activities. I'm not going to name the names I named them last time but you know who they are. All right so this issue needs to be resolved. Self-identification is an independent doesn't work. Better vetting criteria needs to be implemented by this Commission.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. I believe we have number 11 and 12 who have joined us so number 11, please.

>> Kathy from the City of Midland. Thank you, Commissioners Wagner Lange and Clark, for hearing the voices of the thousands of flood victims in Midland and Gladwin Counties and working to put forward the Pine version five State House map. Can you please apply the same logic and simply make a tweak to one of your existing Congressional maps? Just a tweak. At least to give an option that puts Midland County back together and in a separate District from Flint because both cities have different needs from the Government. The Federal Government recently awarded the Midland Gladwin region 54 million dollars to aid in flood recovery and mitigation. A perfect example of how unified representation in our Government helps a community of interest. I'm not asking for a major overhaul. I'm simply asking that you do for our flood victims what you've done for so many other communities around the state when you've heard differing views. Tweak the map to provide another option. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 12.

>> My name is Bill Schuette, some have advised me not to say anything fearing the Commission would get mad and punish my hometown but that is what is occurring I stopped being intimated but I bullies long ago. Disenfranchise Detroiters it fractures Midland and County of Midland and do three bad things, three bad things, one separate mid myth health main campus from the rest of the operations to the north and west. Two separate Dow companies headquarters from employees related businesses in Midland and Gladwin. And three diminish Dam repair and flood reduction efforts as Midland is trying to recover from three monster flood in 86, 2017 and 2020 that people have lost count. Three bad things would be political gerrymandering. Don't do three bad things. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. I believe we have no 13 at the moment. So we will now move on to remote public comment.

So individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide live, remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. I will call on your name and our staff will unmute you. If could are on a computer
you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute and speak.

If you are on the phone, a voice will say that the host would like you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute. I will call on you by your name.

If you experience technical or audio issues and we do not hear from you for 3-5 seconds, we will move on to the next person in line and then return to you after they are

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wishing we are going to have a fair maps. The Senate map cherry V2 seems to achieve that. I'm glad that Washtenaw and County and Jackson County are united. The Congressional and house maps are not, are favoring the republican or minority party and I think you can do better. Promote the vote has maps that score well on political fairness. I hope you will look at that. We need to strive hard to obtain fairness to help heal our divisions, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 29, James Scott.

>> Jane if you can unmute you are free to address the Commission.

>> My name is Jane Scott and I'm a 32 year resident of the City of Midland. On behalf of the thousands of flood victims in Midland and Gladwin County I want to thank you for proposing Pine version five stat house map recognizing flood recovery and reduction needs. I would ask you to tweak the apple map at the Congressional level to align with these community needs. Currently there are no Congressional maps that do this.

In fact, all the Congressional maps keep the City of Midland with Flint. Our cities have different social, economic, cultural and industrial needs. When this Commission has heard differing views around the state, you have provided alternative map versions. Please do the same for your Congressional maps for Midland. Keep Midland County with Gladwin County in a separate District from Flint. And thank you very much for your time and all your efforts.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 30, Linda Pell.

>> Hi, my name is Linda Pell a long-term resident of Calhoun County. I want to thank the Commissioners for taking on this important and complex task. I urge you to keep the cities of Battle Creek and Albion together in the same State House District. Over 16% of our County population is Black with the overwhelming majority of people of color living in these two cities. Splitting the cities apart greatly diminishes their ability to have a voice in state governance. Many organizations in these two cities share a mission of strengthening the Commissioner education and health prospects and making them a clear community of interest. This State House District is a competitive seat. Evidenced by a 50-50 split between democrats and republicans elected in the past three decades. This District clearly meets the standard for partisan fairness. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you. Number 31, Colleen.

>> I'm from Brownstown Township in Wayne County. The Michigan State house needs the same partisan fairness in adherence to the Constitution that was shown in drawing the Michigan Senate maps. I appreciate the public comments were considered when drawing the Pine version five map and I support that map for the State House. Please continue your good work. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you. Number 32, Soh, Suzuki.

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happened in 2011. And mostly I want to say please be successful. We need you to so we need you to succeed at this task so please you are the heroes of 2021.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 96, Julie.

>> Good morning can you hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Good morning yes.

>> Yes, I've been watching your hearings. You have called out republicans for participating in the process yet all the maps proposed for the City of Midland and Midland County come directly from the Midland County democrats talking points. With the exception of the Pine V5 State House map there are no State Senate or Congressional maps that keep the City of Midland with the rest of the County and the District with our Gladwin neighbors. Midland's flood recovery and reduction needs are not partisan. As we've said since this process began in May the flood waters don't care what party was voted for but what does matter is that making sure all of our voices are heard and that our area maps are representative of our community and its needs. With that please tweak your State Senate map and apple Congressional map to include all of Midland and Gladwin Counties in districts together and separate from Flint. All voices need to be heard.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 98, Marcy Paul.

>> Good morning I'm Marcy Paul from West Bloomfield and I've been watching this process intently because I strongly supported prop two like millions. And I was tired like most people speaking today of seeing the party that got the most votes statewide continue to be in the minority in the house both the house and Senate, State House and Senate. And this remains my main concern because the flawed analysis that you're using is producing the very issues that we tried to solve in prop two. For instance if you look at 20 -- using the 2016 election if it was applied to your current house map republicans won by 10,000 votes and would have at least 18 seats majority. But if the 2018 results were applied where the democrats won by far more substantial 10% of the vote, they would have the same 18 seat.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 99, Evette McRoy.

>> Hello, can you hear me now.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Yes, we can.

>> All right, good morning.

The Commission has heard from hundreds of people asking for better representation for Detroit. Now that your experts say you can go over 50% for the number of Black voters in a District, this should make it much easier for you to make the necessary changes to improve representation for Detroit. It seemed that what was holding you back from making big changes was your interpretation of the VRA. We want communities of

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partisan fairness number. If you get it down to 0, or very close to 0, in all the maps, the story will be that Michigan's redistricting process succeeded. If you don't, they will say you just created new gerrymandered maps to replace the old ones. That one number is what really matters, so please prioritize it. And thanks for the great work you are doing. I'm so grateful that you're not engaged in partisan bickering, good job, thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 105 Lisa.

>> I'm Lisa from Northville Michigan. I'm a democrat. But I'm not asking you to draw maps that favor democrats or maps that favor republicans. As yesterday's NBC news Article stated republicans are trying to manipulate your Commission in their favor by concentrating on communities of interest. These pack democrats and prevent partisan fairness. Don't let them manipulate you. Fair districts help those parties minimizing the election of extremists. Michigan has seen a rise in extremists after ten years of gerrymandering. On January 6, Americans, American saw an insurrection but an extremist faction stop the cycle and draw fair districts. It's good for republicans and democrats. It's good for Michigan. Most importantly it's imperative for our democracy.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 106 Ann.

>> Hi, my name is Ann and I live in Midland County. I know you have heard a lot of comments these past few months and from watching these hearings you have done a good job of offering communities alternative versions of maps. I'm sorry. When there are differing views. Unfortunately for the thousands of flood victims of Midland and Gladwin County, there are no Congressional maps that keep the entire Counties of Midland and Gladwin together.

In fact, there are no Congressional maps that separate the City of Midland from Flint. Please don't discriminate against our community by not offering us the same consideration. Please tweak your apple Congressional map to give the victims of Midland and Gladwin Counties a chance to have their voices heard.

We need unified representation at the Congressional level. Midland and Gladwin Counties should be kept whole and together in a Congressional District that is separate from Flint. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 109.

>> Good morning. First thank you for your service. My name is Calila Spencer and I'm a homeowner in West Bloomfield since 2004 and live in a gerrymandered District and serve as the Chair of the legal redress community for NAACP and secretary of Detroit NAACP and pleasure of serving as board president for promote the vote. It's not a political organization and has gone through great lengths not to get caught up in Commission politics and try to serve as a resource and there is a path for Michiganders and fully expect the Commission to follow it. I encourage you to consider promote the vote Congressional and house maps in final deliberation because they are fair and equitable. No map is perfect but Congressional map does a better job with advocate and fair represent takes for communities of interest and making sure no political party

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has unfair advantage. Please submit the maps for the final portal for consideration and again thank you for your service.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Rosa holiday.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rosa, if you can unmute you are free to address the Commission.

>> Good morning I'm Rosa holiday from resident of Bay City. And I'm very concerned about having fair representation. We have a chance through you to receive that. So far, our maps have been favoring republicans by a large margin. And so that should be changed. We have been gerrymandered for over a decades. And if you can draw maps that reflect a 0 bias and that would be great for all of us here in Michigan. And so I want to thank you for the maps that the birch version two Congressional map for our area the cherry version two, Senate map. And if you can work on that Pine house map. But thank you so much, Commissioners, for your work and I really appreciate what you are doing, just do the right.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Amanda Oster number 113.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Amanda, if you can unmute you are free to address the Commission.

>> Can you hear me now.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Perfect thank you. Thank you, Commissioners Wagner Lange and Clark, for hearing the voices of thousands of flood victims like myself in Midland and Gladwin Counties and working to put forward Pine V5 State House map. I would encourage you to take another look at the Congressional maps to put forward an option that keeps Midland and Gladwin in entirety together in one District. There are currently no Congressional maps that do this. All of the proposed versions put the City of Midland with Flint. Flint has competing interests from ours and would dilute the voice of thousands who need unified representation please tweak your maps and keep Midland and Gladwin Counties together in a separate District from Flint. Over half of our community voices have been dismissed give Midland a Congressional District that puts us back together in a separate District from Flint. Our communities are vastly different why are there no alternative maps that provide this option for the public's consideration? Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number 114, Richard Williamson.

>> I'm Richard Williamson from Grandville and Kent County thank you for your work on the State House maps your work on Pine map version five truly reflects the public comments of West Michiganders and creates fair and representative Districts. Thank you. It is appreciated. As you finalize the State Senate maps, please refer to public comment and keep Ottawa County mostly whole and Kent County mostly whole. When

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I very much appreciate the Commissioner's work to ensure the statewide partisan fairness and representation for all Michiganders and hope you continue not to prioritize one group over another. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number four is Jennifer Austin.

>> Hello Jennifer Austin, City of Midland. Thank you for your historic work in ungerrymandering our maps. Although none of the maps meet partisan fairness standards, they are a vast improvement. I especially want to thank you for reuniting the Tri-Cities in Mid-Michigan. I support Chestnut for Congressional because it keeps District 8 counties whole and adds most of Midland. And Linden for Senate with the Tri-Cities District. And I like the Szetela State House map for Midland District. But if that is not available for the initial vote and not going to address partisan fairness further on the House maps, I support Hickory with the changes made to Detroit made by Kellom and Curry.

But I want more clarification on the voting process. You need to determine how the voting structure will work and outline every step of the process and inform the public of the procedures. For example, will the maps be voted on a ballot or up and down vote on each map until you get to a winner? What happens if more than one map in a category meets two democrats and two republicans, two unaffiliated standard? And what is the final decision to move to a ranked choice voting? And when will the individual maps be up for consideration? We need very clear procedures put in place to be sure the public understands and the Commission follows preapproved protocol. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Five, Essence Wilson.

>> Good morning. My name is Essence Wilson. And I'm a resident of Flint and wanted to share I believe for your proposed Congressional map the Chestnut or Birch version two maps are the best and for your proposed State Senate maps the Linden or Cherry version two maps are best. However, I feel that comment about in the State House have not been accurately reflected. Flint needs to preserve a majority-minority District, but the entire City of Flint should not be packed in a single District which would be a clear and obvious partisan gerrymander.

Flint should retain a majority Black seat while allowing us the opportunity to elect a second seat when possible.

The submitted map P7273 does this and should be used as a guide for the Commission in determining a State House map for the City of Flint. The Commission should also ensure that the partisan split of Genesee is reflected in the overall County State House map.

Please do not subject us to ten years of partisan gerrymander in our City when better options have been submitted to the Commission.

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And it contains the changes that Kellom and Curry made to the Detroit area.
Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 11, Jill Haver-Crissman.

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Hi. My name is Jill from Midland, Michigan.
I want to applaud your professional and congenial behavior as a group through this very arduous process. Thank you and keep it up.

Your collaborative Congressional and Senate map metrics showed efforts to create fair maps that reflect our electorate. The House are hard to shake.
The Chestnut Congressional map is the most fair statewide. I like it keeps most of Midland County with all of Bay, Saginaw and Genesee Counties in a competitive District. The Linden Senate and Hickory House maps are the best collaborative maps overall in partisan fairness, although the Szetela House map is better.

I hope in the voting process you will continue to be models of democracy in action. Remember Voters Not Politicians, fairness, nonpartisanship and please vote for the Chestnut Congressional, Linden Senate and Hickory or Szetela for House maps. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 12, Margaret.

>> Hi. I'm Margaret from Ann Arbor. Thank you all for your dedication. I appreciate how you have listened to the public comments and I've adjusted the maps along the way.
Regarding the woman who spoke earlier about combining rural Jackson County with Washtenaw County and saying it's like inviting the Buckeyes into the big House, well maybe so. But at least the game would be competitive and the playing field level.
The current maps give one team a 10 point victory before the game even begins.

On the Congressional maps, the Szetela map is the best and only map to have a perfect partisan fairness score.
The Birch map is also fair.
For Senate Linden, Kellom and Szetela maps come closest to fairness, but they still favor one party and require tweaking.
I ask you to do more on the House maps. While Hickory comes closest, none of the House maps would represent an outcome that accurately reflects the way we vote.
I don't want to delay the process, but an extra 45 days pales in comparison than living with unfair maps for ten years. And please continue your good work and redo the House maps. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 13, Jan.

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We think that will give citizens a strong voice with similar issues in environmental, industrial, economic concerns.
We also support Birch version two.
For State Senate we support the Linden map consolidating much of the Tri-Counties of Saginaw Bay and Midland. These three Counties have well established common interests as well.
The Palm map is unacceptable because it has the worst partisan scores. For State House, as others have said, Hickory is the best; but we think there could be continued work on that for partisan fairness.
So, again, we urge you to stay the course and adopt Chestnut, Linden and Hickory with some changes and to...
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 36, Andrew.
>> Hi, everyone. I'm Andy and live in Ann Arbor and I want to thank the Commission for all your hard work on our behalf. The main message I have is we want you to please continue working on the State House maps. None of the House maps proposed so far are fair. And currently all the House maps give the majority of seats to minority of voters.
I understand that with 110 House Districts, this is a complex challenge; but it is critical.
Of the Congressional maps, I prefer the Birch version two, Chestnut and Szetela of the State Senate maps. The fairest I think are Linden and Cherry version two. Thank you so much for all your hard work on behalf of the citizens of Michigan.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 37, Lisa.
>> Hello. Thank you for listening to me personally. Hi, thank you for listening to me personally in the past and also to the public.
I support the Congressional Birch and Senate Linden maps.
I'm commenting today because I'm concerned with the partisan gerrymandering in the House maps that many people have mentioned due to hesitancy to break up cities.
Packing cities will make the urban rural divide worse over the next ten years. And as you have seen throughout this process, it already polarizes the people of Michigan.
I urge the Commission to revisit the House maps and do better.
Several organizations have submitted fairer maps, particularly next vote.
It is possible to achieve more competitive, unpacked districts in the House maps. And, as others have said, it's important to get this last piece right. And I support you in doing so even if it takes a bit longer.
If not, I support Hickory and Szetela.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 39, Sarah.
>> Good morning, can you hear me?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

← Next Previous →

College Student Supports Chestnut

Basic Info

Submitter: John R. Nosal
Location: Midland
Submitted: 11/21/2021
Type: written
ID: w9084

Tags

#midland #bay city city #saginaw

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

To whom it may concern,
As a young person who has grown up in the city of Midland, I have always known my hometown to be politically competitive. However, due to the extent of gerrymandering in Michigan my whole life, it has always been biased towards one political party. Midland is one of the tri-cities, and local issues tend to revolve around the three as a whole instead of separate entities. This is why I am endorsing the map called Chestnut since it finally combines the tri-city region into one. All three cities should be equally heard in the U.S. Congress by a single congressman or congresswoman. This change is the exact reason why I am proud to say that I was one of the signatures on the initial petition which allowed this commission to be voted on in the 2018 election. Thank you for doing your job in a non-partisan and skillful way by creating the map called Chestnut.
I fully support Chestnut, and I hope this becomes the final confirmed map. The tri-cities are politically competitive, and they all should be in the same congressional district.
J.R. Nosal

← Next Previous →

Mid-Michigan

Basic Info

Submitter: Brandon
Location:
Submitted: 11/22/2021
Type: written
ID: w9093

Tags

#midland #bay city city #saginaw #mid michigan #flint #chippewa river #tittabawassee river #house districts #pine river

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

I think that Bay, Saginaw, Midland, and Genesee Counties should be in the same federal house district at the very least. I grew up in Midland and think areas such as Big Rapids or Cadillac that are in the same district as us in the current federal district map don't really have much in common with us, and as such would like to keep the aforementioned counties in one district, at least to the best of the Commission's ability. Other areas that would be good to include in this district would be areas around the Tittabawassee River, or even areas near the Chippewa River and Pine River that just flow into it.

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Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 29.

>> Hello, Commission.

My name is Mr. Dotson from the City of Flint.

I lived there and a business owner there.

I'm here to recommend map P7273. Did I say that right? So I think it's important that we clearly, I've been to a couple of these meetings now and it seems that is what the residents want.

And I know there are people and you're doing your best to please everyone.

I know it's hard and it's impossible. But seems as though we have to stay as close as we can to the demographic area. And it seems to me it speaks the best P7273, so appreciate it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. I believe that concludes our public comment. I just want to do one last call for number 21, which I believe Austin was the last name, and see if that person is here.

Okay, all right, thank you for your comments this morning.

At this point we are going to move on to the live, remote public commentary.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide live remote public commentary to the Commission will be allowed to do so. I will call on your name and our staff will unmute you.

If you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak.

If you are on the phone, a voice will say that the host would like you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute.

I will call on you by your last name or the last four digits of your phone number. Also, please note that if you experience technical or audio issues or if we do not hear from you for 3-5 seconds, we will move onto the next person in line and return to you when they are done speaking.

If your audio still does not work you can email redistricting@michigan.gov and we will help you troubleshoot so that you can participate at a next public comment period at a later hearing or meeting. You will have one minute to address the Commission.

Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

The first person in line for public comment is James Gallant. Please wait a moment for our staff to unmute you.

>> Yes, James Gallant, Marquette, these are my opinions. One minute is absolutely unreasonable. And in response to the Detroit Free Press, the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission has the legal right to define the constitutional mandates until those efforts are overturned by the Michigan Supreme Court. This is that change the rules attempting to reboot the system thing. And you all know my concerns. So as a public service, I'm urging anyone who wants to challenge the

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Thank you very much to the Commission for all their hard work and please consider voting for Hickory and Linden to become our maps. Thank you.
Have a nice day.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 13, Naomi-Ludman.
Are you available?
>> Can you hear me?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.
>> All right. Thank you. My name is Naomi-Ludman from Cass County in the southwest corner of the state. I want to say given that unfortunately communities of interest have not really been taken into consideration, I have to fall back to partisan fairness as being the most important criteria at this point.
I want to plead with the Commission to consider the issue of partisan fairness.
The map that comes closest to this to giving each party a chance to have a competitive race is the State House for Hickory.
State Senate map would be Linden or Cherry as many said the Congressional districts, I guess for the Congressional districts it would be Chestnut.
So thank you for considering these maps as you vote.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 14, which is Mary Murphy.
>> That participant is not present. Move on to number.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: 15.
>> Yes.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: So 15, Greg Hodgman.
>> I'm Greg Hodgman, Kalamazoo resident for over 50 years fair nonpartisan maps are critical.
The Palm State Senate map has the most partisan unfairness and should be rejected.
There is partisan unfairness on other maps. And the Hickory House map currently has the best partisan fairness.
Please continue your good work and adopt as final maps the least partisan maps allowing the party that receives the most votes to win the most seats. Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number, I'm sorry, number 16.
>> Good morning. Can you hear me?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.
>> Thank you. Good morning, Commissioners. I'm LaCracha Handy from Flint County, Genesee County. And every map has a republican bias and this is unacceptable. Please prioritize partisan fairness and choose the fairest maps. In the

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Senate, Linden and Cherry are much better in terms of partisan fairness than Palm. So vote no on Palm.
In the House all of the maps contain too much republican bias.
Hickory is the fairest.
So please vote, yes, on Hickory.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 16, 17, Art Reyes.
>> Good morning. My name is Art Reyes, a lifelong resident of Genesee County.
And, as I do every time, I want to thank you for putting in the efforts that you have and doing this.
I know it's not an easy process, but it is absolutely vital for the health of our democracy here in Michigan.
I do urge you to vote for either Cherry version two or Linden in the Senate. But it's absolutely unacceptable to me that the 34th District, or whatever new number it would have, has disappeared.
The Hickory map does have the least partisan advantage.
But you need to go back to the drawing board if the City of Flint cannot have its own representative.
It has very specific issues that have been cast nation and worldwide. And we need to be sure that Flint has a voice that is ensuring that that stuff does not happen again.
In the Senate again Cherry version two or Linden. Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 18, Sarah W.
>> Hello, Commissioners. Thank you for listening to the citizens of Michigan and continuing to work towards fair maps.
I wanted to talk today as a resident of Grand Rapids on the maps that are affecting us here in West Michigan.
I appreciate the collaborative maps that the committee or the Commission has put together for the State House.
I think the collaborative maps generally represent our communities of interest pretty effectively.
I also just wanted to express some concerns about the Szetela House map.
The COIs here in Kent County and West Michigan are not represented there.
And the voices of our citizens are not represented in that map.
Our second largest City, Wyoming, is split into multiple areas despite having a strong community of interest with the Hispanic communities of Grand Rapids.
The Hickory map also appears to be the fairest statewide of the collaborative maps.
And for State Senate I'm concerned about the lack of partisan fairness for the Palm map.

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Number 52, Dorothy Munson.

>> I'm Dorothy Munson, representing the Grand Rapids nonpartisan election protection coalition in the foundation.

The Senate Linden map would provide a good break down of districts for effective representation in West Michigan, in Michigan overall.

It is wonderful to see that the Grand Rapids urban, suburban populations have two districts for representation because of how large it is.

Special thanks to you for including Cascade Township in the north District.

Linden is really the best map to represent the people of West Michigan.

Absolutely please do not select the Palm map.

This is the worst of maps for votes to seats ratio for all of Michigan.

It is similar to the maps currently being used in the Michigan Senate.

Thank you all for staying the course and doing the difficult, mind numbing and seemingly endless work of the Commission with professionalism, curtesy and attention to detail.

Happy holidays.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Happy holidays.

Number 58, Lisa Ingram.

>> Hi, can you hear me.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Yes, we can.

>> All right. I think the Congressional District map for Chestnut is the most fairest for at least from where I live in the Great Lakes Bay Area.

It's a good combination of the Tri-City areas.

I'm not too happy about the Linden Senate map, but I can live with it.

It puts myself in an area with Thomas Township and other areas that don't really serve my interests.

And then I do like the Hickory map.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you.

Number 59, Jenna-Mahmoud.

>> Hello.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Hello.

>> Can you hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Yes, we can.

>> I'm Jenna, a long-time resident and part of Access. I urge you to continue your work on the house maps. You divided and separated our community of Dearborn and Dearborn Heights, doing so marginalized the community and impacts resources and weaken the ability and to vote for representatives who truly represent us and needs impossible.

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>> Hello, can you hear me?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.
>> Thank you so much.
I'm Kermit Williams, Pontiac City Council president.
I wanted to take a couple seconds to thank the Commission for all the hard work that you guys have done throughout this process.
We are almost at the finish line, and I'm very excited about it.
I would just ask that you would set a minimum standard for debate for each one of those maps as you guys deliberate.
You've heard a lot from us over this process.
I would love to hear from each Commissioner before you guys vote on the maps that is going to change the course of Michigan history for the next ten years.
So, again, happy holidays. Please consider making sure you take enough time to go through each map before you set that for our redistricting.
Thank you so much.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number 73, Claudia Warren.
>> I've been a Midland County resident for 40 years and it's encouraging to see that through this collaborative mapping effort the Tri-Cities have been recognized as one entity.
I encourage you to endorse the following collaborative maps.
Chestnut for Congress and Linden and with tweaking the State Representative, redistricting for decades has been a closed door process dominated by the republican party resulting in gerrymandered districts that rig the election.
Statewide this republican dominance has been devastating for public education, environmental protection, infrastructure regulation and workers' rights.
Here in Midland County these gerrymandered districts have resulted in legislatures who are uninformed, indifferent and unresponsive.
Today thanks to VNP and this Commission we want a seat at the table.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is 74, Linda Barth.
>> Good afternoon.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Good afternoon. We can hear you.
>> As a citizen of Michigan, I would first of all like to thank the Commissioners for their hard work and willingness to be open minded as they tackle the duties. I'm a resident of Midland and Realtor in Midland for 44 years.
I cannot emphasize enough the connection we have with Bay City and Saginaw.
When we market our area, we use the tools in the toolbox which include informing people relocating here about the amenities our sister cities have to offer and add to the benefit of living here.

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The Commission has done an excellent job of recognizing our Tri-City of interest and balancing the criteria in a weighted order.
I support the Chestnut, Linden and Hickory, but Hickory with a little tweaking.
Recent publicity out of Midland and Gladwin is that we should ignore the importance of our COI and revert back to way things used to be. This Commission was tasked with many things including using political fairness as one of the criteria in creating the new maps.
Businesspeople and former politicians should not be allowed.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is 75, Rosa Holliday.
>> How did they knock me out?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can hear you.
>> Hello, can you hear me?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can, Rosa.
>> I want all of my time.
I was knocked out. I'm Rosa-Holliday from Bay, Midland and the Saginaw area. And I support your Chestnut map for Congress, the Linden for the State Senate. And actually on the house I just don't have one to support.
If you tweak the Hickory, that would work for the house.
And absolutely a no vote for the Palm map.
And I encourage you to continue to work to make fair, competitive maps for Michigan.
We will have to live with these maps for another decade.
And, Commissioners, you're doing a good work, so I thank you for that.
And encourage you to continue to give us a good map for the house so that we all can be able to live with that.
I just want fairness and competitive.
So thank you so much.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you.
Number 76, Judy Mega.
>> Hello there.
Your Chestnut Congressional map is decent, but it's last on the list for preserving communities of interest according to the nonpartisan redistricting open maps coalition.
True communities of interest which do not include Counties are linked by public policy issues that maybe effected by legislation.
If you could do the Wyandotte and South Gate into Congressional six as the Birch map does, it would add a true community of interest to that map and be closer to the goals outlined by the Constitution.
Many people have requested this change in the online portal.
We share the following Federal issues as a COI.
Police and Federal, fire assistance, Down River mutual aid program.

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number 80, who is Karen Tighe.
>> Hi, can you hear me?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.
>> It's Karen Tighe from Bay City, Bay County, Michigan, part of the Tri-Cities.
Thanks for all your work.
You folks have been amazing.
We have seen you in Midland and hosted you in Bay County. And nice to see Santa Rothhorn up there.
Early in the process you recognized the Tri-Cities, the Bay, Saginaw and Midland as a true community of interest, that existed through history and thus became an area of Mid-Michigan that's now functioning as a Metropolitan region.
You drew the maps that honored the Metro relationships while still slightly favoring republicans, but still it's a balanced District overall.
Our hope is that you don't fall prey to a last-minute push bipartisan groups from Midland, which are hoping to carve Midland out of the Tri-Cities and putting it back with Gladwin County. And it would result in a stronger bias and dilute what you did create for the Tri-Cities.
We support Chestnut, Linden.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number 81, Susan Smith.
>> Good afternoon, Commissioners.
I'm Susan Smith, vice president for advocacy League of Women Voters of Michigan.
The league is pleased to see that you intend to review and adopt a process for how you will conduct the final vote on December 28.
We encourage you to discuss each of the proposed maps before taking any votes.
The Commission has received thousands of public comments concerning the maps.
Now the public needs to hear from you.
How did those comments influence your thoughts about the maps? You have spent hundreds of hours developing these maps.
Please take the additional time needed to share your thoughts with the public, thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is 82, Kathi Harris.
>> Hello.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can hear you.
>> Good, thank you, my name is Kathi Harris.
I am a member of the Grand Rapids Randolph chapter and also our proactive organization.
And I'd like to speak to you regarding first of all fairness of maps.

← Next Previous →

End Gerrymandering in Midland, MI, area

Basic Info

Submitter: Alyce Zynda
Location: Midlrnd
Submitted: 12/28/2021
Type: written
ID: w9647

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

I have lived in Midland, MI, over 30 years and I am asking the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to end the heavy gerrymandered Districts - MI Senator #36, MI House of Representatives #98, and US House of Representatives #4. We need political fairness over the boundaries for the City of Midland and Midland County as your guidelines require. A district that includes the tri-cities (Midland, Bay City, Saginaw) for Senate and the tri-cities plus Flint for US congress creates the best, in my opinion, the fairest districts. Of course, the state house district must be fair and competitive unlike what it is now. In addition, I do not believe the flood or the watershed topics should be used as a reason for the district lines. Therefore, for the Senate Map please vote "YES" for the LINDEN Map, Vote NO on the PALM. For the House Map, vote "YES" for the HICKORY Map, Vote NO on the MAGNOLIA and PINE.

← Next Previous →

Choose Chesnut, Linden and Hickory maps

Basic Info

Submitter: Jasna
Location: Midland
Submitted: 12/28/2021
Type: written
ID: w9663

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Thank you for choosing to be Michigan's public servant and not a special interest servant!
I have to take this opportunity to say how proud I am of all of the Michigan residents who volunteered and worked so hard to create this commission to take politics out of redistricting. They entrusted you their desires to create maps that will be most fair and inclusive and maps, whose primary focus is MICHIGAN COMMUNITIES. Whenever you make your individual decisions about maps, I ask you to start from yourself and ask yourself this. Is this what would be best if this were MY community? What areas do I consider parts of my local or regional community (including schools and neighboring towns). Ask yourself that while rejecting any bias on partisan politics, skin color or regional economic status.
As a resident of Midland County, this are the maps that meet the criteria I just described:
-the Chestnut map for U.S. Congressional, because it keeps most of Midland County together and reunites Mid-Michigan
-the Linden map for State Senate because it reunites our Tri-Cities
-the Hickory Map for State House because, of all the less than perfect options, it is still the most fair."
Thank you.
J. Appell, Midland , MI

← Next Previous →

Thank you

Basic Info

Submitter: Terry
Location: Midland City
Submitted: 12/30/2021
Type: written
ID: w9696

Tags

#midland

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Dear Members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission,
Thank you for putting forth a fair plan for voting in our state of Michigan. We have a chance now for more moderate officials to be elected. The bullies will make a lot of noise, as they want to protect their personal interest. But many of us are grateful for the many hours and dedication you have given to make voting fairer in Michigan.
In these times of political unrest and division, you are a breath of hope.
I live in the city of Midland and am pleased with the new boundaries. It will be better for our region to have 2 representatives rather than a single person representing our watershed.
I am grateful for your work.
Terry Townley

Target	Deviation	Total Population	NH White (Combo)	NH Black (Combo)	NH Native (Combo)	NH Asian (Combo)	NH Pac Islander (Combo)	NH Other (Combo)	Hispanic	Voting Age Population	VAP NH White (Combo)	VAP NH Black (Combo)	VAP NH Native (Combo)	VAP NH Asian (Combo)	VAP NH Pac Islande (Combo
)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
75,179	196 (0.03%)	775,375	726,790 (93.73%)	11,385 (1.47%)	38,650 (4.98%)	7,251 (0.94%)	879 (0.11%)	9,957 (1.28%)	15,847 (2.04%)	633,080	597,460 (94.37%)	8,188 (1.29%)	27,402 (4.33%)	5,147 (0.81%)	554 (0.09%)
75,179	182	774,997	710,889	21,627	19,937	7,252	659	10,625	36,060	606,868	560,657	16,019	14,526	4,965	418