APPENDIX
VOLUME VII
PART 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Volume I

District 1 Comments ..... App. 001

District 2 Comments ..... App. 029

Volume II

District 3 Comments ..... App. 050

District 4 Comments ..... App. 104

Volume III

District 5 Comments ..... App. 179

District 6 Comments ..... App. 239

Volume IV

District 7 Comments ..... App. 308

District 8 Comments ..... App. 360

Volume V

District 9 Comments ..... App. 430

District 10 Comments ..... App. 446

Volume VI

District 11 Comments ..... App. 461

District 12 Comments ..... App. 499

Volume VII

District 13 Comments ..... App. 525

MGGG COI Report 9/13/21 ..... App. 591

Sep. 20, 2021 Commission Hearing Transcript Excerpts ..... App. 761

Dec. 28, 2021 Commission Hearing Transcript Excerpts ..... App. 774

Proposed Plans Compliance Spreadsheet ..... App. 787

DISTRICT 13

DISTRICT 13

← Next Previous →

Detroit Congressional Districts

Basic Info

Submitter: RICHARD CLEMENT
Location: Detroit
Submitted: 6/14/2021
Type: written
ID: w759

Written Testimony

I hope that this community of interest is kept intact..

Tags

#detroit city #highland park city #hamtramck city

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

← Next Previous →

East English Village District

Basic Info

Submitter: Gregory Falkner
Location: Detroit City
Submitted: 6/16/2021
Type: coi
ID: c829

Tags

More Info

Our community contains multiple major thoroughfares that contain many large businesses, small businesses, schools, parks, waterways, and industry. These community assets provide jobs, education and many shared interest venues that are not only vital but beloved to our community. Our core district is the East English Village Community . Our proposed District would tie together the interest of multiple communities of the lower East Side of Detroit making it a District to be modeled after for years to come. This proposed district provides strong community assets and institutions that will provide jobs, shopping, entertainment, casino's major league sports events to include Indy Car Racing, to not only the residents of this community, but to the entire State of Michigan. Those are the larger assets of the community. The smaller but just as important assets are educational institutions to include Wayne County Community College Districts Eastern Campus, Several Detroit Public School Community District High Schools, Middle Schools, and Elementary Schools. The proposed East English Village district will have a strong residential base that

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.)

includes low income, middle income, and upper middle income residential neighborhoods that would all benefit from corporations located in the district such as The Chrysler corporation which has two plants in the proposed district, Detroit City Airport, Detroit Water and Sewage, DTE Energy maintenance yards, Universal Logistics, Flex N Gate, and Dakkota Integrated Systems all of which are major supplies to the big 3 Auto companies. Assets like these in our proposed contiguous yet compact district will provide a labor force for industry and jobs for the residents of our proposed district as well as the residents of the City of Detroit and State of Michigan. For these reasons we the citizens and community members of East English Village submit this proposal for creating an new district with our proposed district.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

← Next Previous →

Asian American Community/Hamtramck COI

Basic Info

Submitter: Rebeka Islam
Location: Hamtramck
Submitted: 6/25/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p1037

Tags

More Info

My community of interest is the Asian American community of Hamtramck MI. I grew up in Hamtramck and it's home to many Bangladeshi Americans; it has a high concentration of Asian Americans and many other immigrant communities representing about 35% of the population. In recent years Asian Americans in Hamtramck have expanded into Detroit due to the high cost of housing, and limited access to affordable housing as the population has grown. I am asking that we include parts of Detroit in Hamtramck's district.
One example of why the commission should include parts of Detroit with Hamtramck is the ability to service immigrant communities with better language access materials in native languages. There is a large demand for civic, health, and educational reading material in native languages, given the recent health crisis of the covid-19 pandemic, it has highlighted and uncovered the need for more language access throughout Hamtramck and parts of Detroit. Although my organization focuses on civic engagement in the last year we have worked in the community

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.)

translating critical health information because this was not available through state or local government agencies.
This is just one example of resource needs that my community experiences on a daily basis.
The AAPI community trusts that you will hear our needs and consider them when you redraw the maps. We ask, as a community, that Hamtramck should be connected with Detroit's district. Not doing so would be to the exclusion of the Asian American voices in Detroit and Hamtramck . I have submitted a map on the portal for your reference.
I thank you for listening to me.

Comments & Feedback

7/7/2021 - **Abigail Adan** (Detroit/Wayne): I agree this is a definite need for identity representing this community.

7/7/2021 - **Amanda Jaczkowski** (Hamtramck, Wayne): As a resident of Hamtramck, I interact with the Bangladeshi community frequently in the stores, restaurants, and streets. Sometimes, representation crosses the boundaries of the city and county. The Bangladeshi community is a perfect example of a Community of Interest, with cultural and economic ties that cross these boundaries. It is absolutely important to provide this community a unified voice in politics, so that they can have the representation they deserve on a state and federal level. #banglatown #bangladeshi #hamtramck city

7/8/2021 - **Amina Ahmed**: This is a great map! Went to the APIA event tonight , it was great. Please support this. #bangladeshi #bangla #asian #aapi

7/10/2021 - **Linda Sattler** (Washtenaw): This is a great map! The explanation is clear with important reasons as to why it is vital to keep this community together. An excellent submission. #hamtramck city #bangladeshi

7/17/2021 - **Mariam Akanan**: We urge the commission to take into account the shared experiences between the immigrant communities in Hamtramck and Detroit. We echo the statements made by APIA that keeping these COIs together will help immigrant-based-organizations in providing culturally appropriate services, as well as enhancing the ability to service immigrant communities with better language access materials in native languages.

#hamtramck city #immigrants #asian #aapi #access #communitypartners

8/18/2021 - **Mohammed Khan**: Please support this map this would really help bring our community together.

8/19/2021 - **Chien-An Yuan** (ANN ARBOR): This is a great narrative and I ask the commissioners to support this! Thank you!

8/19/2021 - **Sarah Lally**: I support this map, the reasons, and rationale. Please take this into consideration and leave the community grouped together!

8/19/2021 - **Tanvir Ahmed**: I am in support of this map. We can do similar for Warren and Sterling Heights #aapi #apiavotemi #asian

8/19/2021 - **Dmitri Nguyen**: This map makes a lot of sense for the reasons Rebeka listed. It also adheres to all of the commission's priorities for drawing a district. I fully support this!

8/19/2021 - **Jacqueline Dechavez**: I agree with Rebeka communities should be kept together!

8/19/2021 - **Emma Davis** (Detroit City): I am in support of this map and submitted an identical one (ID: p1206) that was informed by community feedback and conversations with other community organizations like APIAVoteMI and Detroit Environmental Justice. In addition to the language access needs that Rebeka highlighted, this COI also shares housing, financial stability, small business, environmental, and public health

needs which you can read about in more detail in my submission. https://www.michigan-mapping.org/submission/p1206

8/19/2021 - **Jerrica Mickens** (Detroit City): I support fair mapping that recognizes the importance of community and this map is an example of such fair mapping. Well thought and considerate to its citizens. I fully support this map.

8/19/2021 - **N Joyrich** (Farmington Hills): I fully support this map. thanks

8/19/2021 - **Ken Whittaker** (Detroit City): I support this map. Hamtramck needs its political and cultural identity lifted.

8/19/2021 - **Dan Moen** (Washington Township): I support this map.

8/19/2021 - **Nasreen Khan**: Recent census data showed that the AAPI community is on the rise. We need to make sure we keep these communities together. #aapi #apiavote #hamtramck city

8/20/2021 - **Mariam Bazzi**: I support this map and its narrative, both of which are integral to the communities it seeks to represent. I hope the commission will keep these communities together and recognize its role in fair representation.

8/21/2021 - **Kurtis Fernandez** (Sterling Heights): I support this map! I'm glad when we can recognize that there are communities that transcend municipal boundaries.

8/30/2021 - **Tanvir Jaigirder**: Please keep Hamtramck , Detroit and warren as a Bangla Town

9/7/2021 - **Rumana Rahman** (Hamtramck City): This is a great initiative. The border between Hamtramck and Detroit are porous and the communities are connected and spread on either side. This initiative will help better represent the community as well as give them access to services #hamtramck city #bangladeshi #bengali #detroit city

9/14/2021 - **Maria Risvold** (Sterling Heights City): Kindly requesting the commission to please approve the map drawn by APIA-Vote. This will help the communities who have commonality in their culture, needs and issues. Hence they can support each other and share resources.

9/17/2021 - **Sara Rede**: Please make sure to keep communities of interest together like this one.

9/22/2021 - **Maisha Khan**: This map needs to be taken into consideration when drafting the maps. Please pay attention to this map.

9/23/2021 - **Reem** (Detroit City): The idea of splitting a community is not efficient in addressing its needs. If the community is all in the same district with the same representative, its needs and concerns will be properly and collectively managed. There is no reason to separate a community into 3 districts and have policies instituted on one side of a neighborhood and not in the other because of district lines. I support this proposal and I think it has the best interest of the Hamtramck/Detroit residents.

9/25/2021 - **Michelle Oh** (Detroit): I personally support this map because this will bring big impact to our community as one and it value to all. #apiavote #aapi #asian #banglatown

9/25/2021 - **Ofelia** : This was a great job, and I want give my thanks to Rebeka for taking the time to do it. It seems like a complicated process but the story makes it simple to understand. Many thanks.

9/25/2021 - **Winnie** (Sterling Heights): The map makes sense in bringing communities together. I hope we can understand how this community lives together and shares similar concerns. #aapi #apiavotemi #hamtramck #asian

9/25/2021 - **Cecilia** : I support the map as this would give the voice to a minority community. It is important to recognize that

Hamtramck is a multi-ethnic city.

#banglatown #hamtramck #apiavotemi

9/25/2021 - **Willie Dechavez** (Sterling Heights): Pls support this map. This will bring our community together. #asian #hamtramck #community

9/25/2021 - **Benedicto Manzano**: The map developed by APIA Vote is ideal because it took into consideration geographical, social, and cultural groups. I believe that the organization took a lot of time in drawing the map so that we make sure that gerrymending was not used to favor any political party. Thank you to APIA Vote for inviting me to their Hamtramck Redistricting Town Hall - I see that they engage the community on a regular basis. #apiavotemi #asian #banglatown

9/25/2021 - **Nene Camero**: I support this map to help the community better for representation. #aapi #apiavotemi #hamtramck #asian #banglatown #bangladeshi

9/25/2021 - **Roger Dionisio**: I am in full support of this map because it represents the community with cultural and economic tires that cross city boundaries. Please support this map. #banglatown #bangladeshi #asian #apiavotemi #hamtramckcity

9/25/2021 - **Brenda Sanagustin**: I support the map highlighting the Bengali population in Hamtramck area. My concern and hope is that the community will be well represented on the state level. #apiavotemi #asian #banglatown #hamtramck

9/27/2021 - **Amanda Jaczkowski** (Hamtramck): After reviewing the first set of drafted maps, I was disappointed to see that Banglatown was split on municipal borders. I attended multiple meetings with Commissioners present, and each time it was noted by at least one Commissioner how involved the Bangladeshi community was in attending the meetings and hearings to make

their voices heard. I hope that credit is given where credit is due, and this map delineating Banglatown as a Community of Interest is taken into serious consideration during the review and editing process. Banglatown deserves unified representation.

#bangladeshi #banglatown #hamtramck #detroit

9/27/2021 - **Sam Shrum**: They deserve to have proper representation as one community.

9/27/2021 - **Sharon Dow** (Rochester Hills City): Redistricting can help keep our communities together. Let's use this map to keep our Asian group together! #asian #aapi #hamtramck city #rochester city #rochester hills city

9/27/2021 - **Peggy Du** (Madison Heights City): This is a great map! Please keep AAPI communities together when you draft maps.

#aapi

9/27/2021 - **Kamal Rahman** (Hamtramck): Hello my name is Kamal Rahman I am a resident of Hamtramck and a member of APIA Vote- MI. Thank you for taking our communities of interest so seriously, on June 25th ID: p1037 community of interest map was submitted highlighting the Bangla town community here in Hamtramck. However, I am concerned that the draft maps that were drafted last week are going to split this community of interest. Please know that we are watching the mapping process as they are being drawn and want you to pay attention to our communities. I also want to ask that you make the draft maps more accessible by posting them on the redistricting website. We are eagerly awaiting its rollout so we can analyze them to ensure our community stays together. I would humbly request you to modify the suggested map to expand only by few blocks to the East to Mt. Eliott, which becomes Mound, in a straight line. Davison to the North and I-94 to the East and I-75 to the West. This will ensure the community stays in one map and voices will be more meaningful and will

encourage participating in the election process. Thank you in advance for your consideration. #bangladeshi #aapi #banglatown

9/27/2021 - **Christopher Copacia** (Oakland County): As a resident of Berkley, Michigan than regularly visits and interacts with the Bangladeshi community in Hamtramck and Detroit, the greater Bangladeshi community should not be divided within our district maps and should be considered a community of interest as a whole.

#banglatown #hamtramck #hamtramck city #bangladeshi

9/28/2021 - **Lynn Blasey** (Hamtramck City): I am disappointed to see that Banglatown was split on municipal borders. I attended several local meetings with Commissioners present and each time it was noted by at least one Commissioner how involved the Bangladeshi community was in attending the meetings and hearings to make their voices heard. I hope that credit is given where credit is due, and this map delineating Banglatown as a Community of Interest is taken into serious consideration during the review and editing process. Banglatown deserves unified representation. #bangladeshi

10/4/2021 - **Adel Mozip** (Dearborn): The main mission and goal for this commission is to create districts that are not gerrymandered. What the current map right now reflect is gerrymandering Hamtramck. Hamtramck as a city rich of many cultures that live in harmony, and they need to be kept in ONE house district; and not 3! Thank you!

#gerrymandering #hamtramck #keephamtramckas1

10/5/2021 - **Shuchuta** : I support this map. We really need to keep Hamtramck together to ensure fair representation. Please don't split Hamtramck.

10/5/2021 - **MD Fakrul** (Hamtramck): Please keep Hamtramck together. Our community is being split and that cannot happen. Our voices need to be heard as one.

10/5/2021 - **Amor Roy** (Hamtramck): Please do not split Hamtramck. Keep our community together. We deserve to be kept together so we can be fairly represented.

#hamtramck #banglatown

← Next Previous →

Global Detroit Community of Interest Map

Basic Info

Submitter: Emma Davis
Location: Detroit
Submitted: 6/30/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p1206

Tags

More Info

This is a Community of Interest Map created in Districtr as a District Map for the purpose of illustrating the exact precincts it contains.
This map and narrative of the Hamtramck-Banglatown Community of Interest was built out by Global Detroit, a community and economic development organization, with community feedback. Since the arrival of German farmers in the 1800s, Hamtramck has been known as a magnet for immigrant groups. The Polish autoworkers of the 1900s are perhaps the most well known group, but today the predominant groups are Bangladeshi and Yemeni. While limitations of ethnic representation in Census data hinder the accuracy of population numbers, we estimate that of the current Hamtramck population of roughly 22,000, there are a little over 9,000 foreign born residents. Of that number, roughly 3,800 are from Bangladesh and 3,650 from Yemen. This does not reflect second and third generation residents of Bangladeshi and Yemeni heritage and we also know that with expansion into Detroit, the numbers of the whole community are much larger. There is also still a significant number 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.)

Eastern European residents and a little over a third of the community's residents are Black. This has created a distinct multiethnic, multilinguistic, multicultural community as evidenced by the diversity of restaurants, grocery stores, and other small businesses that line Hamtramck's streets.

While residents of this community contribute economically to the wider region by staffing manufacturing, hospitality, and other frontline jobs, a large portion are living below the poverty line and rely on income-qualified programming and assistance.

Simultaneously, this Community of Interest has a significantly larger density of locally owned businesses than the Detroit area as a whole.

Environmentally, residents of this Community of Interest face public health challenges due to the industrial use of land in the South and East of the community. This industrial land use has created a Sacrifice Zone which has led to chronic respiratory diseases, lower birth weights, and higher mortality rates both in general and throughout the COVID crisis, than in the rest of Michigan. Submission c780 builds out the environmental case for this Community of Interest more thoroughly.

While new residents are drawn to this area because of the cultural communities established in Hamtramck, housing stock is dwindling in quantity, quality, and affordability which has necessitated that the community branch out into local Detroit neighborhoods which have more vacant properties. The neighborhood of Banglatown, so named for the large concentration of Bangladeshi residents, is an example of this. It straddles the Hamtramck/Detroit border to the north. The Bangladeshi community will continue to grow northwards and likely form a corridor between Hamtramck and Warren where a significant number of Bangladeshis currently reside over the next decade or so. Yemeni residents are

mostly expanding into Detroit to the South East towards 94 and Gratiot, but are also moving in smaller numbers into East Davison Village which borders Banglatown.

The community is also expanding westward towards John R, drawn by businesses and organizations that they rely on - the Wayne State University Islamic Center of Detroit on Cass, the all-girls Detroit International Academy which has a significant number of Bangladeshi students, and the Secretary of State office on Grand Boulevard - as well as new projects in development off Brush, Holbrook, and Owen.

This trend of outward expansion will continue. Since the Commission is tasked with being mindful of city, township, and county boundaries when drawing district maps, it is vital to emphasize that using the Hamtramck/Detroit borders as guides for district boundaries, as several proposed maps suggest, would sever this Community of Interest and be incredibly harmful to its political power.

Comments & Feedback

8/20/2021 - **Rebeka** : This is a great demonstration of the immigrant community in Hamtramck and Detroit. I have submitted a similar map (p1037) that would benefit this community. As someone who works with the immigrant community I can say this map and narrative captures the reality of the community. Please consider this map.

#aapi #bangladeshi #apiavote #asian american

8/30/2021 - **Muhith** : i am requesting to keep hamtramck and bangla town together.

8/30/2021 - **Afruza** (Hamtramck City): I support this map and i want everyone to keep supporting bangla town

9/2/2021 - **Kurtis** : I 100% support this map and I really appreciate how the narrative recognizes how these communities of

interest have contributed to Metro Detroit as well as the issues that they face.

← Next Previous →

MI redistricting - LGBTQ+ Detroit

Basic Info

Submitter: Midge Cone
Location: Ann Arbor
Submitted: 7/1/2021
Type: written
ID: w1287

Written Testimony

Keep up your community efforts! I support LGBT Detroit/Palmer Park community request to refrain from dividing up this community of interest, as maps are developed.

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

← Next Previous →

LGBT Detroit.

Basic Info

Submitter: Sue Hadden
Location: Ann Arbor
Submitted: 7/1/2021
Type: written
ID: w1306

Tags

#palmerpark #lgbtq+ #detroit city

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

LGBT Detroit serves a unique group of people who are often minorities and also LGBTQ+. Many in this community live in Palmer Park in Detroit and they want to be able to vote together! This vibrant group should not be divided into separate districts.

← Next Previous →

Hamtramck & Detroit APIA/ACCESS

Basic Info

Submitter: Mariam Akanan
Location:
Submitted: 7/17/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p1511

Tags

#hamtramck city #aapi #access #communitiesofimmigrants #asian #bangladeshi #yemeni #arabamerican #mena

More Info

ACCESS has different locations throughout Metro Detroit, namely in Dearborn, Sterling Heights, and Hamtramck. We are honored to serve the immigrant community with partners like the Asian Pacific Islander American community (APIA Michigan). We reaffirm their statement that highlights the diverse immigrant community that resides in Hamtramck and Detroit. Indeed the area has the highest population of Asian Americans, Arab/MENA Americans - predominantly Yemenis - and other immigrant communities. About 44% of the city are immigrants, the highest percentage in Michigan. Hamtramck is now closing in on a majority Muslim population, with Bangladeshis and Yemenis making up the largest immigrant groups. (National Public Radio) Approximately 41.4% of Hamtramck city, Michigan residents in 2015-2019 (ACS) were foreign-born. 53.5% of the foreign-born were naturalized U.S.

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.)

citizens, and an estimated 61.3% entered the country before 2010. Foreign-born residents of Hamtramck city, Michigan, come from different parts of the world. Among people at least five years old living in Hamtramck city, Michigan, 69.4% spoke a language other than English at home. Hamtramck is unique in being the most diverse municipality in Michigan in terms of residents' national origin. We urge the commission to consider the shared experiences between the immigrant communities in Hamtramck and Detroit. We echo the statements made by APIA that keeping these COIs together will help immigrant-based organizations provide culturally appropriate services and enhance the ability to serve immigrant communities with better language access materials in native languages.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

← Next Previous →

Arab & Middle Eastern/North African COI

Basic Info

Submitter: Mariam Akanan
Location: Dearborn
Submitted: 7/17/2021
Type: coi
ID: c1510

Tags

#arabnarratives #arabvoices #mena #wearemena #access

More Info

The Arab or Middle Eastern/North African (MENA) Community
As the leading Arab American community-based organization, ACCESS (ARAB COMMUNITY CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SERVICES) has worked for 50 years as a service provider. The agency services 70,000 individuals from disenfranchised communities—primarily those representing the Arab American community—on an annual basis. This on-the-ground experience has allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the needs and challenges facing this critically underrepresented community. The Arab American community that ACCESS serves most directly, in metropolitan Detroit, is one of the largest and most concentrated in the nation. But the community is also unique in its diversity, successes, and challenges. In metropolitan Detroit, we have many people with Lebanese, Iraqi, Yemeni, Syrian, Palestinian, and Egyptian ancestry. There are also smaller communities of people from Sudan, Morocco, and Algeria. The community is one of the oldest Arab American

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.)

communities, with roots back to the 1890s, and receives more Arabic-speaking refugees and immigrants than almost any other metro area in the country.
The U.S. Census counts people who hold Arab ancestry or other Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) origins within the "White" racial category. The truth is, Arab/MENA Americans have distinct issues, and experiences and national-level data on Arab/MENA Americans obscure regional variations, such as disadvantaged communities in the Metro Detroit area. Nationally, among Arabs living in the U.S., 75% live in multigenerational households, and 78% are U.S Citizens (Native-born & Naturalized). The Arab/MENA community, though lumped into the White racial category by the U.S. Census (following guidelines from the federal Office of Management and Budget), is quite distinct from the White population. The diverse Arab/MENA populations may trace their ancestry to different countries, speak different dialects or languages, practice different religions and fall into a broad range of socioeconomic categories. However, they have much more in common than any other ethnic or racial group. Using the best available data from the U.S. Census' American Community Survey (ACS), a report was created by ACCESS demonstrating that a picture of a unique community emerges as a result of disaggregating the Arab/MENA community from the White racial category. For instance, the socioeconomic characteristics by Ancestry and Location using ACS 5-Year Estimates (2010-2014, Weighted) indicate that 43% of the Arab/MENA community (ages 25-64) live in poverty 8.4% are unemployed. Moreover, the most recent issue of the ACCESS Health Journal, published in 2018, identifies: "a growing body of research" indicating "that Arab Americans," particularly refugees, "are subject to a host of stressors, including discrimination, lack of social support,

and economic hardship that could detrimentally influence their mental health," but which are under-emphasized due current data.
Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb:

Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties are the three most populous counties in Michigan and comprise metro Detroit. These three counties also have the most significant Arab/MENA populations in the state and some of the most concentrated Arab and Iraqi Chaldean populations in the nation.
Dearborn and Dearborn Heights
Dearborn and Dearborn Heights have many commonalities, including history, culture, heritage, and ancestry. Many community members who live in Dearborn Heights, for example, either have family connections to Dearborn, work in the City of Dearborn. As one of our Volunteers, Sara stated on June 3rd, some even attend schools, not within their district. The current district maps divide Dearborn Heights and Dearborn in the middle. This divide is manifested in both the Senate and House maps for Dearborn Heights, further marginalizing the Arab/MENA community, impacting available resources, and making the right to vote for representatives that reflect their shared needs, concerns, & culture almost impossible. The Arab/MENA population in these areas has grown significantly over the last 20 years. Today the South end of Dearborn, where ACCESS' main branch is, has a high concentration of Arab/MENA residents (many of which are new immigrants & Refugees). Below are some data about the Arab population for 48120 zip code (which encompasses the south end and a wealthier section of Dearborn called Spring wells Park. In 2000, according to the Census, 48120 was 49% Arab ancestry. According to 2015-2019 ACS, 48120 had 52% Arab. The growth of Arabs in the south end may not have changed much. However, it is the rest of Dearborn

where one can see the change and growth:
* In 1990, Dearborn was 15% Arab.
* In 2000, Dearborn was 30% Arab.
* In 2019, Dearborn was 47% Arab.

Drawing from the ACS Estimates (2015-2019), approximately 41.7% of the eastern side of Dearborn residents (Zip Code 48126) were foreign-born. 68.4% of those foreign-born were naturalized U.S. citizens, and an estimated 72.3% entered the country before 2010. The ACS data shows that 91.6% of foreign-born came from Asia, yet when asked about race only. The Arab/MENA population has tripled in 30 years and will continue to grow - albeit being undercounted.
Melvindale
Melvindale is part of the Arab/MENA community of Interest, isolated from the rest of the community in Dearborn and Dearborn Heights. ACCESS' youth and education program currently serves the community in Melvindale. It has Arab/MENA immigrant students, parents, and community members who share experiences with the rest of the MENA/Arab COI (Communities of Interest).
The Melvindale-Northern Allen Park Public Schools
The Melvindale-Northern Allen Park Public Schools is a suburb of the City of Detroit. According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 2.76 square miles. The 2017 population (estimate) of the City of Melvindale was 10,322, with 24.7% of the population under the age of 18. Recent data indicates that the student population has increased in terms of cultural diversity in the past seven years. The student population consists of 0.3% American Indian or Alaska Native, 0.6% Asian, 8.5% African American, 26.2% Hispanic, and 64.4% Caucasian (this figure does not accurately include the large Arab or Middle Eastern students).

ACCESS' 21st Century Community Learning Centers reflect the demographics in the 2020/2021 School Year:
The total number of enrolled students in cities between Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Redford, River Rouge, Melvindale, Allen Park, and Detroit is 940. Around 583 students were Arab (62%). In Melvindale (Zip Code 48122), the total number of students enrolled in the 21st-century community learning center was 151, of which 130 are Arab/MENA (86%). In Dearborn (Zip Code 48126), the total number of students enrolled in the same learning center was 291, where 280 are Arab/MENA (96%). In the South end of Dearborn (Zip Code 48120), the number of enrolled students is 95, of which 94 are Arab/MENA (99%).
The current Senate maps include Melvindale, but the House maps cut the community in the middle. The community in Melvindale has more commonalities and shared history and trauma with the cities of Dearborn and Dearborn Heights rather than Lincoln Park. The congressional map is not very different as it cuts Melvindale into another district away from their Arab/MENA community. Dearborn's congressional map places the city with cities like Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, which have entirely different COIs with different socioeconomic backgrounds, experiences, educational levels, and needs. There is also part of west Detroit where a significant Arab/MENA population resides and whom ACCESS' serves. Since the Detroit metro area receives such a high number of refugees and recent immigrants from Arab countries, Arab Americans in Detroit are more likely to be impoverished and have a lower level of educational attainment than Arab Americans in other metro regions.

The truth is, we may not be able to draw perfect lines and maps. Yet, we can

ensure that communities of Interest, especially historically underrepresented communities, are not divided because of partisan lines. We urge the commission to make sure that our Community of Interest, the Arab/MENA community, which has contributed to the civic, political, and economic life of the Metro Detroit area, is connected. This social justice lens is the only way our community can feel represented and included in the political process.

Comments & Feedback

7/19/2021 - **Jamie Kim** (Dearborn): This is an excellent map! Arab American and MENA communities have been historically excluded and underrepresented. This map considers the Arab American community in Dearborn and surrounding communities and their shared interests as a community. In addition, this map has been drawn using ACCESS' knowledge of the community and data on the community, which will ensure that the community is connected, included and represented.

7/19/2021 - **Mariam Bazzi** (Dearborn): As a lifelong Dearborn resident and Arab American, this narrative truly resonates with me in terms of representation and what is important to my community.

← Next Previous →

A letter from an Arab immigrant

Basic Info

Submitter: Mariam Akanan
Location:
Submitted: 7/19/2021
Type: written
ID: w1530

Tags

#arabnarratives #arabvoices #arabamerican #mena #wearemena #immigrants #dearborn city #dearborn heights city #hamtramck city #melvindale city

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Dear the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission:
My name is Mariam Akanan, a first-generation Arab immigrant, a resident of DearbornHeights, a temporary Master of Social Work student resident of Ann Arbor, and a full-time civic engagement specialist in Dearborn with the Arab Community Center for Economic andSocial Services (ACCESS).
I write to you today preeminently to amplify the needs of myCommunity of Interest.
As you may already know, Metropolitan Detroit is home to one of the largest and most diverse Arab and Middle Eastern & North African (MENA) communities outside theArab/MENA region. At least 3.5 million Americans of Arab descent live in the United States ofAmerica yet are not represented in Census data as unique racial and ethnic categories.

OurCommunity of Interest, the Arab/MENA American community, primarily lives in Dearborn,Dearborn Heights, West Detroit, and Melvindale, as well as other parts of Michigan such asHamtramck, Sterling Heights, Flint, Livonia, Canton, Ferndale, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, and throughout the nation. It originates from culturally, geographically, and religiously diverse countries, embodying many experiences and narratives that cannot be distilled to a singular experience or partisan lines. Without a fair count of us, we are constantly invisible and not factored into this part of the political process of redistricting.
Guided by Section 2 of the Voting Rights

Act, which prohibits minority vote dilution, I respectfully ask the MICRC not to divide my Community of Interest - historically underrepresented - but rather, to reflect it throughout the redistricting process fairly.Drawing district lines without splitting Communities of Interests will provide us with an equitable opportunity to participate in the overall political process and to elect representatives of our choice. The Arab/MENA American community is much larger and more diverse than it has ever been. Today, much like any other long-term demographic,Arab/MENA Americans are not concentrated in one part of Michigan. We have been involved in the economy and culture of Southeast Michigan for well over one hundred years and have made civic, cultural, and economic contributions to civil society. According to Smith (2012),Arab/MENA Americans' economic activities are responsible for supporting and creating between 99,494 and 141,541 jobs in Michigan's southeast counties of Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne in Michigan. Unfortunately, the importance of my Community ofInterest, the Arab/MENA American community, has been underreported and has received little

attention (Abraham & Shryock, 2000; Smith et al., 2012).
The Arab/MENA community continuously faces unique challenges. My community has faced, for years, negative stereotyping, discrimination, and political exclusion. We have many shared concerns, including labor conditions and discrimination, civil rights and equality, access to health care, culturally sensitive integrated health and social services, language accessibility, political representation, safe infrastructure, environmental justice, ancestral homeland conflicts, and immigration issues, in addition to the constant feeling of being an accepted part of the American society and its politics. Moreover,

depending on how long an individual has been in the U.S., language barriers can be obstacles to integrating intoAmerican society. I have witnessed family members encounter challenges in obtaining culturally and linguistically appropriate services and resources. The truth is, if it weren't for immigrant-based-organizations, it would have taken years for many newly arriving immigrants and refugees, like my parents, for example, to feel part of the larger society.

As a first-generation Arab/MENA Immigrant who is privileged in many ways, including the ability to write this letter in English, I must further contribute to preceding civic engagement and advocacy efforts led by courageous Arab/MENA immigrants that arrived in Dearborn before me. It is also my responsibility to educate myself and others around historical events and social justice issues as they pertain to our community and other communities of color, black communities, indigenous communities, and other ethnic and racial minority groups.

Reflecting on the history of Dearborn, and in particular the early presence of Arab/MENA members in the Southend, we can notice that Arab/MENA or immigrant-led organizations, such as the

Arab American University Graduates AAUG, the Southeast Dearborn CommunityCouncil (SEDCC), Palestinian and Yemeni activists (note: together they founded ACCESS),collectively, supported and empowered the increased influx of Arab/MENA immigrants in70s. Today, 50 years later, we are still here, working with local partners to continue to meet the overwhelming needs of the community.

We appreciate MICRC's dedication to the redistricting process and your willingness to learn about the different communities around the State of Michigan. We are particularly thankful for the opportunity to share with the MICRC our needs and concerns as a Community ofInterest last month during the public hearing in

Dearborn. Commissioners, you have the ability to draw district lines and maps that influence Michigan's local, state, and national political landscape for years. We urge you to look at various findings that can be just for ourCommunity of Interest and neighboring communities. The Census data does not reflect ourCommunity of Interest; It takes away our shared history, heritage, and narrative.Demographic population data are usually collected through the Census, AmericanCommunity Survey, or other instruments. In this light, I encourage the MICRC to employ comprehensive procedures and tools that seek to understand communities from a sociocultural, environmental, economic, and political lens in which they historically existed and exist today.
We will be submitting a more thorough report to the MICRC, including lived experiences of my Community of Interest. Once submitted, we hope that the information serves as an example of how human-centric and multi-layered approaches can further help explore and understand various Communities of Interest.
Again, thank you for your time and efforts throughout this critical process. Please

do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance to you.
In Solidarity,
Mariam Akanan
She/Her/Hers
MSW Candidate, 2022 | University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Civic Engagement Specialist, ACCESS | NNAAC

← Next Previous →

Detroit as a whole

Basic Info

Submitter: jordan mielke
Location: detroit
Submitted: 7/29/2021
Type: coi
ID: c1870

Tags

More Info

The city should vote together

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.)

← Next Previous →

Dearborn-Dearborn Heights

Basic Info

Submitter: Mary Jo Durivage
Location: Dearborn City
Submitted: 7/29/2021
Type: coi
ID: c1861

Tags

More Info

Keep Dearborn and Dearborn Heights together.

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.)

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

It appears we also have one more person who provided live, in-person commentary who would like to provide a second public comment. So at this time we will ask the speaker to come back to the podium and you can provide your second public comment. Once again, it's the same rules, two minutes.

>> Okay, so regarding the actual map, we have heard a lot of litigation about and the actual map regarding the actual map. I'd also like the Commission to possibly consider putting whatever District in for the Congressional and State Senate maps that Dearborn is in to also include Hamtramck in that seat. Arab Americans makeup a sizable minority of Michigan. And I think it would be really nice for representation of Arab Americans if there could be a Congressional and Senate District that could have as much of an Arab minority as possible.

It would be really good for campaigning because a lot of... because a lot of candidates can go to mass and speak directly to Arab voters where in some districts Arab voters can often be ignored when they are in places where they are too much of a minority to really care about frankly. And I'm an Arab American myself. I really care about this issue. And I believe more Arab outreach is needed.

So, again, if you guys could consider putting a Senate, having a Senate District of Dearborn, Hamtramck and parts of the north of Dearborn Heights with as much as an Arab population as possible while still complying with the VRA. Because generally we are counted as Caucasian. So VRA District that could have much of Arab minority as possible, I would appreciate that.

There is not really way to measure how many Arabs are in the District. But certain regions like Hamtramck, Dearborn and North Dearborn Heights. I would appreciate that. It would be really good if we are minority representation of a group that has often been overlooked.

I hope you guys consider that and thank you very much.

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

That concludes our public comment this afternoon.

Before we move on to our next agenda item, I would like to note for the public record that our Chair, Brittini Kellom, is not in attendance today. Therefore, I would like to at this time designate Commissioner Dustin Witjes to serve as acting Chair in the event I need to leave the room for any reason.

All right. Let's move on to our next agenda item. Without objection, I'd like to move forward old business and ask Executive Director Hammersmith to provide information with 5A draft meeting schedule.

Hearing no objection, please proceed Mrs. Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Good morning, everyone.

Last week we talked a little bit about how the schedule would look going forward and wanted to create a fairly clear picture for the Commission of what the path ahead is going to look like.

← Next Previous →

Latinx Community. SW Detroit/Downriver

Basic Info

Submitter: Oscar Castaneda
Location: Detroit
Submitted: 8/15/2021
Type: coi
ID: c2453

Tags

#sw-detroit #sw_detroit #sw detroit
#swdetroit #detroit #latinos detroit
#hispanics detroit #latinx

More Info

This map represents the region of SW Detroit with the largest Latinx/Hispanic population.
This is a region with deep common roots on language, music, food and traditions.
This region used to be at the hearth of the 8th. District of the Michiga House of Representatives.
In 1999 Belda Garza became the first Latinx Immigrant to represent this district.
In the year 2000, after the 2000 census, the Michigan districts where redrawn and District 8th was
divided on small pieces that became part of other districts, breaking the Latinx unity on the area.
What used to be District 8th is now part of Ditricts 5, 6, 13, 14, and 15th.
We never had a Latinx representing our community again.
We ask the Redistricting Commission to keep the Latinx/Hispanic community together

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.)

Comments & Feedback

8/16/2021 - **Dominique Becerra** (Detroit City): I am really interested in keeping our communities of interest together. SW Detroit is an Immigrant community that has needs that are different from the needs of other areas that surround us. We need to be placed in a district with other people who have the same needs, and interests as us, so that we stand a chance at getting out communities the resources they need.

8/25/2021 - **Juan Marinez** (Okemos): I would to express my interest towards keeping as much as possible the area of SW Detroit as much of a whole as possible. The primary reason is that we have a long history of working together which has been commented over generations. By keep us together as much as possible we can continue building our community into the future. We might in the future elected individuals who come from our community and who are engage in our issues that can bring assistance to the work that we have been undertaking. We know your task is difficult but not impossible, you also have at you disposal technology and human resources that can assist your work.

8/31/2021 - **Oscar Chapa** (Detroit City): We need our representatives to reflect the views of our community. There is no reason the area has been gerrymandered so severely. We demand change.

8/31/2021 - **Sarah Leon Martinez** (Detroit City): I think it is extremely important to keep our communities of interest as one district. Southwest Detroit is a community of immigrants that need specific representation!

8/31/2021 - **Ninel** (Detroit City): This map shows a population that we need to keep together for our community.

8/31/2021 - **Gloria Gallegos** (Detroit): My name is Gloria Gallegos Detroit residente, I agree with the map above, it agrees with our community life style, language and culture. We would like to stay together as a community and be counted together.

9/13/2021 - **Oscar Castaneda**: Prior to 2011, District 12 housed the highest concentration of Latino voters in the State of Michigan. The redrawn district maps that year diluted the Latino voice by more than half, from 45% to only 20%. As a result of redistricting in 2011, the Latino vote in Detroit was "cracked" into 2 separate districts, just as Latino voters have become the fastest-growing demographic in the city and state, thus depriving Latino voters of the ability to act in a politically cohesive manner. Addressed by the Supreme Court in LULAC v. Perry, Justice Kennedy said "When an emergent and mobilized minority community is poised to act cohesively and its newfound 'efficacious political identity' is deliberately frustrated, this is intentional discrimination," The LatinX population in Southwest Detroit is the very definition of a community of interest! In an area of 93,000, the LatinX community represents 47% of citizens. Combined with our often political Black allies in this area, we represent a minority population of 68,000. We work together, contribute to society, and live in economically disadvantaged communities together. Our children attend the same schools, which lack the basic infrastructure to run well. We all certainly feel the effects of living in a city with environmental impacts like pollution and noise pollution. The binding principles of this Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Committee include seeking out opportunities to create Minority-Majority districts. This is one! We deserve to be held whole on all of the maps. In the US Congressional, the Michigan State House, and the Michigan State Senate. We ask to be held whole and to not be divided as a voting block and community

9/20/2021 - **Natalie Rivera** (Melvindale): I agree with dhdc is doing

← Next Previous →

Roz's COI Southwest Detroit

Basic Info

Submitter: Roz
Location:
Submitted: 8/29/2021
Type: coi
ID: c3196

Tags

More Info

This map represents some of southwest Detroit downriver area. This community of interest share common economic status.

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.)

← Next Previous →

Latino Community Detroit

Basic Info

Submitter: Hayg
Location:
Submitted: 8/30/2021
Type: coi
ID: c3244

Tags

More Info

This is the Latino community of Detroit.
Please do not split it up.

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.)

← Next Previous →

A Cohesive Hamtramck (HOUSE)

Basic Info

Submitter: Aryeh P
Location: Hamtramck
Submitted: 9/2/2021
Type: other
ID: o3542

Tags

#hamtramck city #detroit city
#highland park city

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

External Link

Link: https://districtr.org/COI/41300

(This is a user submitted link. Open external links with caution)

Written Testimony

This is a district that would be respectful and considerate to the Asian and African American communities of Detroit and Hamtramck. It keeps several Asian communities of the Hamtramck area intact and united, which have previously been fractured across different districts. It

also connects them with neighboring parts of Detroit/Highland Park along the I-75 corridor. This district is majority non-white, and respects the communities it contains with cohesive representation.

← Next Previous →

Arab Americans, District 11, District 15

Basic Info

Submitter: Bilal Hammoud
Location: Dearborn Heights City
Submitted: 9/8/2021
Type: written
ID: w3992

Tags

#arabamerican

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Hello, my name is Bilal Hammoud, I am a Dearborn Heights resident, and I'd like to take this opportunity to share the lack of representation and access my community and municipality face. My city of Dearborn Heights Is a friendly neighbor to Dearborn. And although our population of 63 thousand Is almost large enough to have a state representative of its own, our representation is divided. One state rep district is split between 3 municipalities with Dearborn heights being the minority, and the other is split amongst 5, Dearborn Heights still a minority. This means we have little to no representation in Lansing and the power of our voice is substantially diminished.
As you might know, cities like Dearborn and Dearborn Heights, are home to huge Arab American populations. But the census data you review will not include them.
If you don't know you'll soon hear that the Arab American community has fought long and hard to get representation on the census. In what seemed like an instant that decades-long fight was struck down on a whim. Now Federal protections, grants, and research are held back till the reincarnation of this Commission.
I bring this up to the commission to shed light on the waves of impact this has on language access. The 1965 federal voting rights act, one of the most significant landmarks of democracy in our nation's history, protects and provides non-English speaking communities with translated voter materials. It ensures that all citizens can participate in the Democratic process. However, because of

Democratic process. However, because of the lack of representation on the census, there is a huge gap in language accessibility, and these rights don't apply to Arabic-speaking populations. That limits access to our rights and representation as citizens. This makes the Arab American population a community of interest.

We have to recognize that there comes an artificial Gap of access.

I ask this Commission to seriously consider the egregious impact of dividing this community any further.

Looking at the House maps submitted, the Fair Maps initiate by the AFL-CIO (ID o1993) is the current best reflection of the communities/Arab American population in districts 11 and 15. Additionally, the community has come together to collectively map the contiguous Arab American population and this is reflected in the Community of Interest map submitted here https://districtr.org/COI/43065. I hope you will consider these submissions as you map my community.

Thank you for your time.

Warm Regards,

Bilal Hammoud

← Next Previous →

Arab Americans District 11

Basic Info

Submitter: Bilal Hammoud
Location: Dearborn Heights City
Submitted: 9/8/2021
Type: file
ID: f3994

Tags

#arabamerican

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Sent File to Commission

Written Testimony

Hello, my name is Bilal Hammoud, I am a Dearborn Heights resident, and I'd like to take this opportunity to share the lack of representation and access my community and municipality face. My city of Dearborn Heights Is a friendly neighbor to Dearborn. And although our population of 63 thousand Is almost large enough to have a state representative of its own, our representation is divided. One state rep district is split between 3 municipalities with Dearborn heights being the minority, and the other is split amongst 5, Dearborn Heights still a minority. This means we have little to no representation in Lansing and the power of our voice is substantially diminished.
As you might know, cities like Dearborn and Dearborn Heights, are home to huge Arab American populations. But the census data you review will not include them.

If you don't know you'll soon hear that the Arab American community has fought long and hard to get representation on the census. In what seemed like an instant that decades-long fight was struck down on a whim. Now Federal protections, grants, and research are held back till the reincarnation of this Commission.
I bring this up to the commission to shed light on the waves of impact this has on language access. The 1965 federal voting rights act, one of the most significant landmarks of democracy in our nation's history, protects and provides non-English speaking communities with

English speaking communities with translated voter materials. It ensures that all citizens can participate in the Democratic process. However, because of the lack of representation on the census, there is a huge gap in language accessibility, and these rights don't apply to Arabic-speaking populations. That limits access to our rights and representation as citizens. This makes the Arab American population a community of interest.

We have to recognize that there comes an artificial Gap of access.

I ask this Commission to seriously consider the egregious impact of dividing this community any further.

Looking at the House maps submitted, i have attached the Fair Maps initiate by the AFL-CIO (ID o1993) is the current best reflection of the communities/Arab American population in District 11. Additionally, the community has come together to collectively map the contiguous Arab American population and this is reflected in the Community of Interest map submitted here https://districtr.org/COI/43065. I hope you will consider these submissions as you map my community.

Thank you for your time.

Warm Regards,

Bilal Hammoud

← Next Previous →

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.

← Next Previous →

Community of Interest.Bangladeshi/Yemeni

Basic Info

Submitter: Mubarak Mozeb
Location: Hamtramck
Submitted: 9/27/2021
Type: coi
ID: c5521

Tags

More Info

This community of interest which is centralized in Hamtramck and spills over the borders into Detroit should be considered one and not split up.
The area has a large population of Bangladeshi and Yemeni immigrants and their off springs, sometimes 3 generations in one household. They hold common religious and cultural beliefs/tendencies.

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.)

← Next Previous →

Proposed Detroit Congressional Map

Basic Info

Submitter: Detroit Deltas
Location: Detroit City, Wayne
Submitted: 9/28/2021
Type: written
ID: w5585

Tags

#detroit city #congressionalmaps
#equalrepresenation #vra

Comments & Feedback

9/28/2021 - **R.J.** : Many folks have noted the fact that the African American populations in South Warren, Eastpointe, Roseville, and South Clinton Twp doubled in the last 10 years. The commission has largely ignored that fact in its congressional map. It reflected it in its state senate maps for the most part, with 2 Senate Districts crossing 8 Mile.

Written Testimony

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.
DETROIT ALUMNAE CHAPTER
Good morning commissioners and staff, my name is Katrenia L. Camp, Chapter President of the Detroit Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., which is a national service organization founded in 1913. Our sorority is committed to ensuring that the African American community is equally and fairly represented as required under the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
The Congressional map as currently presented by the commission does not allow for minority majority presentation for the citizens of Detroit. The creation of one Congressional district will dilute the political power and will of Detroiters. This is very disturbing, as 77.2 percent of the city is still African American. By providing only one Congressional district, it limits the ability of having an African American represent Detroit in Congress. Further, by drawing Detroit into certain suburban communities, there will definitely be a dilution of political influence and the pool of African American voters and potential individuals that have an interest in serving their community via elected office.
We also need to address the potential difficulties it will cause for Wayne County and City of Detroit officials when they must draw their maps for local services such as school and City Council districts.
In our previous statement, we asked you to receive information with an open and unbiased mind because this process was certain to introduce you to new

perspectives on community concerns that you may not have been exposed to prior to becoming a commissioner. However, we do not believe this has been achieved. Further, the seeming lack of engagement by the entire commission when it comes to Detroit and

Southeastern Michigan is disheartening and troubling.

We again ask that as you deliberate to keep the following challenges in mind as you complete the work you are charged with doing – in accordance with the Michigan Constitution:

Maps for Detroit must be drawn fairly to ensure its constituents do not lose any representation at the Congressional, State Senate, State House, or County jurisdictions.

We asked you to ensure that Detroit is not split in ways that would unfairly dilute the voting power of Detroit residents of color. Splitting these communities of interest would prevent our similar issues from being fairly resolved. That's exactly what you have proposed in your current maps.

Over the last decade, African Americans have lost the most ground in terms of economic equity. Past discriminatory practices have not been remedied and though Detroit experienced growth, people of color did not benefit equally. The common issues and social conditions of Detroit's communities of color make this population a community of interest. We ask you to keep these communities in mind as you recreate your maps and thoughtfully look at surrounding suburban communities that have African Americans residents and other commonalties that make the Congressional or Senate maps logical in their extension into to those communities.

Gentrification and Poverty: Conflicting Challenges, Similar Outcomes

Detroit is unique with only five percent of residents living in a middle-class neighborhood. However, in the region,

the percentage of those living in middle-class neighborhoods is 10 times that amount – at 59 percent.

Studies have found that gentrification often hides the problem of concentrated poverty and unemployment in

neighborhoods that never go through the process of gentrification.

It is difficult for a city to grow when all of its neighborhoods cannot grow and/or remain stable simultaneously, due to a lack of affordable housing

in safe neighborhoods, mortgages that are difficult to secure, and the fact that it is easier to find them outside the city limits. Thus, many African Americans have moved to communities outside of Detroit for these quality-of-life issues, yet maintain ties to family, organizations and activities within the boundaries of the city. These individuals maintain the same values and concerns that their family, friends and colleagues living in the city, thus making the extension of the Congressional, and when necessary, State Senate maps to these communities in order to maintain adherence to the VRA and not to dilute the African American community's political will and power.

Prison Gerrymandering

We again ask you to seriously deliberate and help address this problem of communities where prisons are located unfairly benefiting by counting the prison's population in the population of that locality. Prison gerrymandering unfairly removes needed funding and representation from the communities the inmates will return to – perpetuating the social ills that too often lead to criminal behavior and over-sentencing.

We remind you in our great state, 40% of returning citizens return to Wayne County which is the greatest return of all the counties. Until legislation is passed to end prison gerrymandering, we recommend the MICRC incorporates guidelines that account for district statistics that exclude this population of

individuals – doubly so because they cannot even vote in those localities. Further, the communities where these inmates will return to are robbed of the funds for programs aimed at reducing recidivism – programs that would give these formerly incarcerated individuals

an earnest second change. Your current map for Congress would further remove needed and deserved opportunities provided by these funds.

Summary

It is imperative that the city of Detroit remains cohesive as a "majority-minority" district for all legislative seats. While some demographics of the city and region have changed over the past ten years including the migration of African Americans to surrounding suburbs, mainly to the north, northeast and east, there is still a potential to have at two minority majority districts if the commission would remove political considerations and address the criteria maintained by the Michigan Constitution. We are open to have one influencer congressional district, but it would not be sufficient or impartial to have the other minority majority district consisting of only 32 percent of African Americans as currently proposed.

Further, based on population, demographics, and other reputable measurements, the city of Detroit--and its surrounding neighbors--should not have to bear the burden of losing a member of Congress.

While many of the issues cited here cannot be addressed by the Commission, because they require comprehensive attention from federal, state and local government, this Commission does have the authority to ensure that the residents in the city of Detroit have the ability to elect individuals who are familiar with their issues and who will legislate and lead to address them.

We appreciate this opportunity to make our position known.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

I was born and raised on the northwest side of Detroit.
Michigan, one of the most integral cities in this entire state.
I've also lived on the east side of Detroit and I've lived downtown.
No matter where I've been, what remains everlasting is the City of Detroit needs consistent representatives to stand for racial equity.
Health and life stability for families.
We vote because we demand more of those things in order to have a fair and flourishing quality of life for generations to come.
Thank you for all the work that you have done to draw fair maps for Michigan.
And your dedicated concentration on the City that is still my home.
I can't say it enough it is imperative that we have fair representation when it comes to our legislature.
We need you all to consider and utilize the resources that you all have.
To do better comparison when it comes to mapping out our districts, consider the culture.
And the needs of the people on the City, low wage earners, blue collar workers, these people have been here their entire lives. And ripping apart districts can be devastating for us.
Moving forward.
You all are able to get on track.
May I suggest that you utilize these next few days to truly connect to Detroit and the importance of our districts.
You know, when you are really mapping out the City, use those borders as starting points, consider main roads like 8 mile, Woodward, freeways like I-96, John C Lodge, start there.
We really need a complete analysis.
You could further evaluate more nonpartisan organizations maps out there.
There is a lot to consider in order to do this in the most fair and just way.
And I'm not sure if you thoroughly read those comments on your website, but there are a lot of great ideas there.
Please hear Detroiters in this.
Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Do we have any more in person? Okay, thank you very much.

At this point we will move to remote public commentary.

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 your microphone and speak.

If you are on the phone, a voice will say that the host would like you to speak and

← Next Previous →

Arab Americans, Dearborn, and the MICRC

Basic Info

Submitter: Amer Zahr
Location: Dearborn
Submitted: 10/14/2021
Type: written
ID: w6571

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

My name is Amer Zahr and I'm a resident of Dearborn, a political activist, and a law professor. I'm also a member of Dearborn-based AAPAC, the Arab American Political Action Committee.
I'm writing to you about the redistricting process. I'm extremely concerned with the latest State House maps published by the MICRC as they relate to Dearborn and the Arab American community. The latest maps split Dearborn down the middle and greatly dilute the Arab American vote.
I presented to the commission on September 7 in Lansing about the concerns of the Arab American community. In that presentation, I

expressed support for the Fair Maps map as it related to Dearborn. Also, I cautioned the commission on using raw numbers for VRA purposes in the Dearborn area, as Arab Americans are still incorrectly counted as white by the Census Bureau, when we are clearly a marginalized community of color.
The maps that include most of East Dearborn in a State House district that also includes Detroit dilutes our vote. The maps that you have published for the State House now have no districts that are majority Arab American, in the US state that has the highest concentration of Arab Americans in the nation.
Dearborn, further, is informally known as the Arab American capital and is home to the only Arab American National Museum.
The AFL Fair Maps project proposed a map that accurately reflected Dearborn as a community of interest. That map

took into account the concentrated Arab American community in Dearborn, and proposed a district that was entirely located in the city, only excluding a few non-Arab neighborhoods to achieve the required population numbers.
Finally, while we are counted as White on the census, a number of court cases have recognized the Arab American community's ability to sue under federal law as a racial minority. In fact, a 1987 Supreme Court case established this principle. In other words, the courts see our community as one that could sue under the VRA, even though we are incorrectly counted as White.
I urge you all to modify the State House districts to create a Dearborn district that more accurately reflects our community. The AFL Fair Maps project does a great job of this. If you don't remedy this, the Arab American community in Michigan will likely be left with no representation in Lansing, a disastrous outcome indeed.
As I study and teach these exact subjects, I'm happy to provide any more information or testimony as needed.

← Next Previous →

Equal

Basic Info

Submitter: Shahida Begum
Location: Sterling Heights City
Submitted: 10/29/2021
Type: written
ID: w8113

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Good Evening Commissioners,
My name is Shahida Begum, I immigrated to the United States of America (Detroit,Michigan)from Bangladesh in 1997 with my family. I lived in the city of Detroit for five years and attended Detroit Public School for elementary and middle school and later moved to Hamtramck. I am a current Resident of Sterling Heights. I want to remind the Commissioner's to use the fair maps to best serve my community of interest.
Our map needs to be fair so that our elected officials can look like the people they serve. We need to keep Detroit and Hamtramck Bangladeshi community together in order to have better access to

resources for growing diverse immigrant community. Each year many new immigrants choose Detroit and Hamtramck as their new home due to the opportunities available here. I want to make sure their needs are amplified collectively to give them the best shot at fulfilling their American Dreams.

← Next Previous →

Com. Lange Use Chestnut to fix Midland

Basic Info

Submitter: Anna Dean
Location:
Submitted: 11/5/2021
Type: written
ID: w8835

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Commissioner Lange -- please use the Chestnut configuration to keep Midland whole. It will have solid Detroit districts and be a suitable alternative for those who have advocated for our area to be kept together. Thank you!!

← Next Previous →

Don't fragment Arab Americans

Basic Info

Submitter: Amer Zahr
Location: Dearborn
Submitted: 11/8/2021
Type: written
ID: w8939

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Michigan is home to the nation's most concentrated Arab American population. While we are unfortunately not denoted in Census numbers, we are a flourishing and contributing community. Estimates from the Census Bureau put our numbers in Michigan at 278,000 Michiganders, while the Arab American Institute has conducted its own studies that put the population at closer to 500,000. Dearborn is our national community's unofficial capital.
It is essential that our central communities in Dearborn and Dearborn Heights are not fragmented in the making of legislative districts. I'd like to thank you for achieving this important goal in the

proposed congressional and State Senate maps. Those maps preserve the voting rights of the Arab American community. However, the Pine State House map and others fail in this regard. This map distributes Dearborn, our center, among three districts, number 3, 4, & 6. Dearborn, with a population of approximately 115,000 persons, should be distributed among no more than 2 districts. Luckily, the fix for this is very simple.
The section of east Dearborn that is located in District 3 can be redrawn into District 4. This section happens to be the heartbeat of the Arab American community. I am speaking of the area bounded by Ford Rd. on the south, Greenfield Rd to on the west, Tireman Ave on the north, and roughly Wyoming to the east, plus a few blocks in the northeast end. To offset this gain, the sections of Detroit's Franklin Park

neighborhood currently in District 4 could be given to District 3. This would avoid unnecessary fragmentation of the Arab American community of Dearborn in District 3, while making District 4 more heavily African American. This change would help two disaffected minority communities at once, and keep communities more intact.
Without this important change, the Arab American community's votes will be diluted by fragmentation in violation of the Voting Rights Act. Please propose at least one State House map that doesn't fragment Dearborn so we may comment on it.
Thank you, Amer Zahr

← Next Previous →

Restore communities of interest in State

Basic Info

Submitter: Nancy Brigham
Location: Detroit
Submitted: 11/18/2021
Type: written
ID: w9052

Tags

#east english village
#communities of interest #detroit
#pine map

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Our Detroit neighborhood, East English Village, sent in maps and made lots of comments urging you to keep our neighborhood together, along with surrounding neighborhoods. Instead two of the latest versions of the House maps suddenly split us up along Yorkshire, where I live. This makes no sense.

The only House map that keeps EEV together is Pine v7.
I urge you to reject the Magnolia and Hickory maps and use the Pine map as a

starting point for whatever other fixes are needed.
Thank you.
Nancy Brigham
East English Village, Detroit Mi.

← Next Previous →

Choose maps CHESTNUT, KELLOM & HICKORY!

Basic Info

Submitter: Kaci Messeder
Location: Southfield
Submitted: 12/14/2021
Type: written
ID: w9331

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

My name is Kaci Messeder, and I'm a resident of Southfield, MI and the Policy Analyst at Detroit Disability Power. I'm commenting today to urge the commission to keep Detroit united! Please vote for Congressional map Chestnut, as this map has the best population equality, best compliance with the Voting Rights Act, highest number of competitive elections, scores well on partisan fairness, and has the most districts with the highest percentage of Black Voting Age Population (VAP). Please also vote for the State Senate map Kellom. This map keeps the City of Detroit unified in a single district, has the best population

equality, and has the most districts with the highest percentage of Black VAP. Finally, vote for the State House Hickory because this map is best at keeping communities together in the City of Detroit, has the most districts with the highest percentage of Black VAP, and it scores well on partisan fairness. Again, vote CHESTNUT, KELLOM & HICKORY to keep Detroit united.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

And I want to thank you for the critical and difficult job you're doing in protecting our democracy.
I live in Dearborn.
And I'm here on behalf of access.
You know, the Dearborn community, the Dearborn, Dearborn Heights has the largest concentration in the country of Arab Americans.
The Redistricting Commission has split this highly concentrated community into seven House Districts, ensuring we do not get the representation we deserve.
I urge you to continue to work on the house draft maps and please consider the community of interest map C1510.
As you redraft the house map.
The Commission has drafted more fair representation in the Congressional map of Chestnut and Linden.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 76.
>> Hello.
I would like to thank the Commission for the work that you do.
I'm here on behalf of access.
I live in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, the largest Arab community in the country and submitted our own community of interest maps C1510. But in your house drafts you split our community into seven districts.
We support the Chestnut Congressional and Linden Senate maps as it will allow for our representation of our -- for representation of our community.
I urge you to continue to work with the house maps.
You have time to do this.
It will impact our…my community and family for the next ten years.
Any maps with fewer Voting Rights Act districts than current are not acceptable.
You need to add more time to your schedule and continue to do your work to ensure communities like mine are represented.
It is more important to get this done right than to get this done fast.
And more time to your schedule and continue to work in the house maps.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 77.
>> Hello, everyone.
First of all, thank you, Commissioners, for, you know, doing the difficult work.
It is the first time we are going through this process.
I grew up in the City of Detroit, went to school here, had my kids down the street at Henry Ford.
And I want to talk about communities of interest, you know, our Black, Asian, indigenous, and Latino communities.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

The fact is Arab Americans have distant issues and experiences with national level data on Arab Americans to secure variations affects communities in the Metro Detroit area.
The Arab MENA communities are lumped into the white racial category by the U.S. census, is quite distinct from the white population.
Nationally among Arabs living in the U.S. and 70% live in multi generation and 78% are U.S. citizens native born and naturalized.
We are in Dearborn and Dearborn Heights and the largest community in the country, the redistricting commission has split this highly concentrated community into seven House Districts, ensuring we do not get the representation we need. I urge you to continue to work with the draft maps. And please consider the community of interest map, C1510 as you redraft the house map.
The Commission has already been successful in fair representation in the Congressional map of Chestnut and Senate map.

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

>> Hello. Thank you for having me today. I live in the City of Dearborn Heights and I'm here on behalf of Access.
You have heard from my community throughout this process and we have engaged the Commission.
We have come here before you with our public comments.
We have submitted our community of interest maps C1510.
And we still continue to be ignored as a community of interest in your house maps.
Dearborn and Dearborn Heights is home to the largest and most diverse Arab outside of the MENA region. You need more time to continue to work on the house draft maps to address the Voting Rights Act for many communities throughout Michigan.
You also need to address the partisan fairness in your house maps.
You still have work to do.
And the great thing is you have the time to do it.
The Commission has recognized our community in the Congressional map of Chestnut and the Senate map of Linden.
All your house.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Okay, at this point we are due to take a break for lunch and it's 12:01.
We stopped at 12 and we will pick up number 13 after we resume, after our recess. So, without objection, we will recess at this time.
It's 12:01 and will recess to 1:01 p.m.
Without objection, we are in recess until 1:01 p.m.

[Recess]

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 1:06 p.m. will the secretary please call the roll.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

So please step to the microphone when I call your number. You will have one minute to address the Commission.
Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.
First in line is number 80.
>> Do we have 80.
>> MS. MUSTAFA RASHEED: I don't see her.
We will move on and add her.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: We will return to remote commentary and same rules as before. I will call your name and the staff will unmute you. If you are on a computer, you will be prompted to unmute and speak.
If you are on the phone, it will say the host would like you to speak and press star to unmute.
If you have technical or audio issues or do not hear from you for 3-5 seconds, we will move to the next person in line and return when they are done speaking.
If it still does not work, you can e-mail us at redistricting.gov and we will help you troubleshoot so you can participate at a later hearing or meeting. You will have one minute to address the Commission.
Next in line is number 13, who is Rachid.
>> Thank you all. Can everyone hear me?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.
>> Thank you all.
So my name is Rachid. I grew up in Dearborn Heights and come from a family of 14.
I'm a part of my block club and the board of good fellows.
I live here the City of Dearborn Heights and here with access. Thank you, everyone.
Again, I'm part of the Arab community of Dearborn and Dearborn Heights, the largest Arab community in the country. We are disenfranchised in the redistricting process of a community of interest.
This is important for my loved ones, my daughters and family that we speak up today.
All of your house draft maps cut through Dearborn and Dearborn Heights right down.
And I think that is very political power of representation. So I think the current house map, which was found to be constitutionally gerrymandered and allows for better representation of my community.
My community supports the Congressional map of Chestnut and the Senate map of Linden.
I urge you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.
Next in line is number 14, Mohammed.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not currently present.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, Belal.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

>> Happy Friday, Junior. I'm a father of three boys under four. I am born and raised in Dearborn, Michigan.
This is my home.
I'm a member of Access where I serve my community as a mental health advocate.
I am here representing Access and my community of Dearborn and Dearborn Heights.
And the MENA community in Michigan has a unique experience with specific community needs that can only be met with representatives that understand my community. Access supports of my community providing social and community services that are not accessible by the state.
The MENA community is already a social and politically marginalized group that continues to be left out of redistricting processes.
I support the Congressional map of Chestnut and the Senate map of Linden and will allow the best representation of my community. And I urge you to continue your work by redrafting the house map and considering our community of interest map, C1510, in these draft house map.
Thank you very much.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Rawha.
>> I was born in Lebanon and grew up in Michigan.
I am on the board of my block club and member of Access and live in the City of Dearborn and here on behalf of Access.
You are obligated to follow the Constitution and the ranked criteria.
You have failed to do this.
The Voting Rights Act is the number one criteria and you continue to ignore communities that are protected by the RA.
You have grass communities in Detroit Dearborn, Dearborn Heights and Flint and other places of the state to elect officials to understand our needs and interest and leaving us without a voice in Lansing for the next ten years.
You have the ability to remain our concern by adding more time to your schedule to redraw the house maps.
I support the map of Chestnut and Senate map of Linden, but cannot support what you have done with the house maps.
Acknowledge what you have heard during the 45-day public comment.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. I believe we have a few more in-person individuals.
Are we is this 80?
>> Thank you, Commissioners, for your hard work and commitment to this process.
My name is Briana, a member of the Southfield Deltas.
The closest maps I support are the Chestnut Congressional map, the Hickory State House map and the Linden State Senate map.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

That is why we submitted our own community of interest C1510. And thank the Commission for taking into account in the Congressional map of Chestnut, the Senate map of Linden, but cannot support the house maps presented by the Commission.
All house maps have partisan.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number 23, which is that was -- Zainab.

>> I live in Inkster and here with Access.
The MENA community of Michigan is the largest and most diverse mostly concentrated in Dearborn and Dearborn Heights.
We have been involved in the economic and cultural development for Southwest Michigan for 50 years. Guided by Section Two for minority vote dilution, I ask the Commission not to divide my community of interest but reflect throughout the redistricting process fairly.
Drawing District lines without splitting communities of interest will provide us with an equitable opportunity to participate in the overall local process and not to elect representatives not of our choice.
They split Dearborn and Dearborn Heights in seven House Districts ensuring we do not have representation we need.
Add time to redraft the house maps and consider C1510 as you redraft the house map.
And I support the map of Chestnut and state map of Linden. The maps will provide representation of my community.
Commissioners, you have the ability to draw the District lines and maps.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 25, Asraa.

>> I live in Dearborn and am on behalf of Access. And I urge you to continue to work on the house map. Access is leading our community for fair representation by submitting the community of interest map C1510 and the Senate map of Linden and Chestnut are the best representation of my community.
We continue to be left out of this process and our community of interest has been split in seven House Districts. And all of your house draft maps the MENA community has unique with specific needs and can be met with representatives who understand my community.
Redraft the house map and consider our community of interest map C1510. And the draft house map, the largest needs representation at every level of the process. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number 27, Mikala.

>> I live in Detroit and I'm here on behalf of Access, who serves the largest Arab American community in the country.
We support the Chestnut Congressional and Linden State Senate maps for Arab American community.

DISCLAIMER: This is NOT a certified or verbatim transcript, but rather represents only the context of the class or meeting, subject to the inherent limitations of realtime captioning. The primary focus of realtime captioning is general communication access and as such this document is not suitable, acceptable, nor is it intended for use in any type of legal proceeding.

We urge you to continue to work on the house maps.
The Michigan State University institute for social policy and public research recommended the MICRC reevaluate its approach towards compliance with the VRA in light of these questions.
They need to assess if the districts can have preferred candidates to win racially polarized elections and ask you to carefully consider what the citizens of Michigan have to say during this 45-day public comment period and through the online portal station submissions as well.
You applaud yourself for having overwhelming engagement from our communities.
Now please listen to us when we say your job is not done.
Continue to work on the house maps.
All of your maps put a thumb on the scale for one party over another.
Fairness is when both parties have to win majority of the votes to win.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number 29, Mariam-Bazzi.

>> Hi, everyone.
I'm here with Access and I'm a lifelong resident of Dearborn.
Thank you, Commissioners, for all your hard work and the Congressional and Senate maps.
We are thankful for your consideration of our Arab American community of interest and the redistricting process as is evidence in the Chestnut and Linden.
Partisan fairness in all your draft house maps, the truth is we may not be able to draw perfect lines in maps but you can ensure the communities of interest and underrepresented communities are not divided because of partisan lines.
We urge the Commission to make sure our community of interest, the Arab MENA community which contributed to the civic and economic life to the Detroit area is connected.
This social justice lens is the only way our community can feel represented and included in the political process.
Adding more time to the schedule is better than continuing to disenfranchise communities across Michigan for the next ten years. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number 30, Rima.

>> Hi. My name is Rima. I'm an Arab American. I'm here with access. Can you all hear me?

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

>> Metropolitan Detroit is home for the largest and most diverse Arab American and north African communities outside of the Arab region. And 3.5 of Arab descents live in the country and not on the census as a racial and ethnic category.

← Next Previous →

Detroit mapping

Basic Info

Submitter: Sharon McNeil
Location: Monroe
Submitted: 12/28/2021
Type: written
ID: w9648

Written Testimony

Map so that Detroit represents Detroiters!

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.