# APPENDIX

# VOLUME I

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# DISTRICT 1

DISTRICT 1

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# The UP is a Community of Interest

## Basic Info

Submitter: Phil Britton
Location: Chocolay Township
Submitted: 5/18/2021
Type: coi
ID: c274

## Tags

#yoopers #upper peninsula #up

## More Info

To state the obvious, the UP is a strong community of interest. We have unique needs, a unique people, and often feel our voice is underrepresented. I would encourage the commission to not treat Michigan's northern district as an "everything else" category. Consider that, even though they are in the same district, it takes almost as much time to drive from Ironwood to Traverse City as it does to drive from Detroit to Washington DC.

## Comments & Feedback

6/22/2021 - **Rosemary Cotter** (Kalamazoo): I concur with this assessment. The communities in the Upper half of the Mitten share an interest with those in the U.P. in maintaining wildlife and natural resources so as to benefit the local tourism industry and lifestyle. However, the social perspectives, economic needs, desire for small government and independent way of life are seen VERY differently between the Upper Mitten and U.P. communities. I believe that the Upper Mitten area has more in common with the Grand Rapids area and/or the Clinton/Gratiot/ Montcalm areas. I also

## Map

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concur that the U.P. communities feel largely ignored and unheard at both the state and federal levels.

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# Districting Plan

## Basic Info

Submitter: Sarah
Location: Chippewa County
Submitted: 9/17/2021
Type: written
ID: w4767

## Written Testimony

Keep the Upper Peninsula whole.

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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# Natural Environment quality of life

## Basic Info

Submitter: Susan THiel
Location: Grayling
Submitted: 6/28/2021
Type: coi
ID: c1161

## Tags

## More Info

Quality of Life and Naural Environment in Northern Lower MI- people migrate to northern MI largely due to loving the natural environment, whether they come for a weekend or decide to stay and live up here. The vast public forests, rivers, and lakes provide quality recreational opportunities, great tourism, clean air, peace and quiet, clean water, and wildlife providing a higher quality of life for many.

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Map

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# Communities of Interest, Grand Traverse

## Basic Info

Submitter: Whitney Roberts
Location: Elmwood Township/Leelanau County
Submitted: 6/29/2021
Type: written
ID: w1166

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

My Name is Whitney Roberts. I am a resident of Elmwood Township in Leelanau County and a member of the township planning commission. I am on the board of The Maritime Heritage Alliance.
I support the efforts of the Commission as you work toward establishing a framework for fair and equal elections.
I encourage the Commission to begin afresh to redistrict our state's electoral boundaries. I am particularly struck by the fact that we in Leelanau share so much waterfront and common issues with Grand Traverse, our neighboring county. We would do well with common representation in the legislative systems of our state and nation. We are more tourist driven than our present district partners of Benzie and the Upper Peninsula. We exhibit the same pressures on housing and infrastructure as Grand Traverse and we share the common water which we seek to protect.
Our present representatives, state and federal, are confronted with a mix of urban and rural of agriculture and parkland making representation difficult. While our present boundaries place us with more rural areas, the U.P. and Benzie, Manistee counties, we are a bedroom community to Grand Traverse and have more rapidly expanding villages to work with. We share the common dependence on the waters of Grand Traverse Bay. More accurate representation by our legislators would be helpful. Our present, gerrymandered districts do not permit this.
Combining Leelanau County with Grand Traverse County or a portion thereof

would certainly enhance the power of our electorate to protect our waters, respond to the ever increasing pressures of urbanization and enable more focused attention to our common problems.
Thank you
Whitney Roberts.

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# Mary's Upper and Lower plan

## Basic Info

Submitter: Mary O'Neill
Location: Presque Isle
Submitted: 7/20/2021
Type: coi
ID: c1571

## Tags

## More Info

Rural, farm, Near Lakes, streams and rivers, tourist area, logging, mining and small businesses

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Map

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# Northern Michigan

## Basic Info

Submitter: Dennis Lennox
Location: Topinabee
Submitted: 7/26/2021
Type: coi
ID: c1688

## Tags

## More Info

The communities on this map are of similar interests and share demographics: religion, ethnicity, economics, culture. They are also linked by Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant by and through its public TV station. Together, the communities have the approximate population of a congressional district.

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Map

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Our lives are integral to what goes on in Traverse City and we would love to be in a District.
Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Next in line is number two.
>> Good evening.
Are you hearing me?
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you.
>> Okay great. My name is Barb Conley. I'm from Northport in Leelanau County.
And forgive me for reading this but I want to be efficient. I first of all want to thank the Commissioners for all the work that they are go doing and for allowing me to speak.
I just want for say Michigan has the constitutional amendment in 2018, which removed the redrawing of the district from the legislature and put it in the hands of you, our Independent Commission.
We have been subjected to gerrymandering, including in the recent past.
And Michigan citizens deserve the right to have their vote counted no matter where they live.
So I do urge you to draw districts that do not lead to one party rule in any District.
And that includes the first Congressional District as well as districts for the State House and the State Senate.
I would like to see maps drawn with as much as close to zero partisanship as possible.
I also want to note some communities of interest along the Northern Michigan coast, which shares tourism, fruit growing water directed activities, fishing, and sometimes medical care, transportation, and intermediate school districts.
For example, our State Senate District could possibly encompass the northern coast of lower Michigan. And many of those communities of interest would be included.
Our State House District, as said by the previous speaker, could compare northern Grand Traverse County with Leelanau County and encompass wine growers, fruit growers, mass transports, medical care, and the intermediate school districts, as well as tourists.
And in our Congressional District we could unite the water-related communities in the upper, lower, the lower upper and the Upper Peninsula.
Then just one minor note, I'm disappointed the MICRC chose a partisan law firm to represent this body in lawsuits.
Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Number three? You may now address the Commission.
>> Thank you.

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# Community of Interest

## Basic Info

Submitter: Micheal Cromley
Location: Afton
Submitted: 8/29/2021
Type: written
ID: w3188

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

I live in Cheboygan County and want to explain why its crucial that our county be aligned or put with Emmet County. While my wife and I live in Cheboygan County we do much of our business in Emmet County. We do all of our weekly grocery shopping in Emmet, all of our medical doctors: general practitioner, orthopedic, dermatologist, eye doctor, vet etc... are in Emmet. Much of our social life is also spent in Emmet. Also of major import is that we share the economic, tourism, boating, swimming, fishing, etc.. with the Straits of Mackinaw, where Lake Michigan and Lake Huron meet. This is what a "community of Interest" is all about.
The Straits of Mackinaw as well as Lake Michigan & Lake Huron also tie Mackinaw County and Preque Isle County with Cheboygan & Emmet. Please consider these important factors when creating the maps for this region.

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# Giving a fair voice to each district

## Basic Info

Submitter: Gregory Putalik
Location: Harbor Springs/emmet
Submitted: 9/21/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p5228

## Tags

## More Info

MI-01 contains four COI clusters and maintains the integrity of the Upper Peninsula regional identity while keeping the "Upper Mitten" community intact. The district is linked together by a robust tourism and leisure industry, coupled with its strong agricultural roots.

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Map

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# Better Upper Michigan map

## Basic Info

Submitter: Jennifer Hill
Location: Marquette City
Submitted: 9/21/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p5186

## Tags

## More Info

This map draws a MI-01 House District that includes four Community of Interest (COI) clusters as outlined to the commission: A1, A2, A3, and A4. Using this map will keep the Upper Peninsula intact, while also keeping the "Upper Mitten" together in a more cohesive way. Using these boundaries, the MI-01 House district would share a robust tourism and recreation industry, together with its valuable agricultural economy.
I was one of the majority that voted to create Michigan's independent commission. The MICRC is in an excellent position end partisan gerrymandering and instead develop a map that reflects communities of interest, partisan fairness, and federal law compliance. The map below meticulously avoids city splits whenever possible, reflects economic and cultural ties between towns and counties, and yields several competitive districts from a partisan perspective. In fact, MI-03, MI-04, MI-06, MI-08, and MI-10 would all invite immediate, serious, and spirited challenges from both sides of the party divide. This level of competitive and fairness would have few parallels from

## Map

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states throughout the country, all while cleaning up our state's lines and prioritizing communities of interest.

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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# District 1

## Basic Info

Submitter: Joanne Cromley
Location: Cheboygan
Submitted: 9/21/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p5205

## Tags

## More Info

The entire Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Michigan must stay intact. We share shoreline from both Lake Michigan and Lake Huron and the Straits of Mackinaw. Our District 1's economy is based on tourism, fishing, hunting, and agriculture which makes this a very strong community of interest.

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Map

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

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# First Congressional District Plan

## Basic Info

Submitter: Jon LaSalle
Location: Marquette City
Submitted: 9/21/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p5232

## Tags

## More Info

This configuration of the northern-most congressional district very well captures an area with many similar interests, both economically and cultural. This areas economy is agricultural, Forest Products and an ever flourishing and growing Tourism industry. Culturally, most of the area is rural, with rural way of life common across the district; the Upper Peninsula has mainly people of Finnish, French, Swedish, and German descent. The Lower Peninsula part of the district is more mixed.

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Map

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

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

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# 1st Congressional District

## Basic Info

Submitter: Jaime Brants
Location: PETOSKEY
Submitted: 9/21/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p5195

## Tags

## More Info

This congressional district would keep the Upper Peninsula and northern Michigan together. These areas have much in common with tourism, lakes and waterways, and agriculture.

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Map

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

View in Districtr

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

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# Competitive MI-01 Congressional District

## Basic Info

Submitter: Evan Bonsall
Location: Marquette City
Submitted: 9/21/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p5189

## Tags

## More Info

This district would keep communities of interest in the Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Peninsula united, while also creating a fairly competitive district in which (all else being equal) candidates from either of the two major political parties could have a realistic chance of being elected. I feel that this district would provide residents of the district with a genuine choice in congressional elections, promote meaningful debate about local and regional issues in Northern Michigan, elevate local concerns about agriculture, mining, forestry, conservation, climate change, American Indian affairs, and rural poverty and development. This district would contain 36 counties, and unlike current or previous iterations of MI-01, this district would be geographically balanced (i.e., not reaching far down the west or east coasts of the Lower Peninsula solely to advantage one political party over another), and would divide only one county (Wexford County), with the other 35 counties being entirely contained within the same congressional district.

## Map

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View in Districtr

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

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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# The Districting plan

## Basic Info

Submitter: Mary Reilly
Location: Emmet
Submitted: 9/21/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p5202

## Tags

## More Info

This plan honors the integrity of the Upper Peninsula while realizing the upper mitten is a tourism and business area that also needs representation. We are also an agricultural area and have that identity as well.

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Map

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

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# Balanced district mapping plan

## Basic Info

Submitter: Jane Milkie
Location: Marquette City
Submitted: 9/21/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p5235

## Tags

#upper peninsula #partisan

## More Info

The attached mapping plan provides many advantages for partisan balance in the #Upper Peninsula and Northern Mitten counties. The Upper Peninsula has its own identity, distinct from counties below the bridge. Tourism and farming support the economies of these northern rural counties.
This map properly supports communities of interest including four clusters (A1, A2, A3, A4). Furthermore, it maintains fairness from a #partisan perspective, a shining exemplar that other states and other Michigan districts could emulate.

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Map

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# https://www.michigan-mapping.org/

## Basic Info

Submitter: Sarah Gurney
Location: Emmet
Submitted: 9/21/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p5204

## Tags

## More Info

MI-01 contains four COI clusters and maintains the integrity of the Upper Peninsula regional identity while keeping the "Upper Mitten" community intact. The district is linked together by a robust tourism and leisure industry, coupled with its strong agricultural roots

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Map

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In that time I have never seen a more disconcerted effort to destroy local communities through our Counties of which I went through the Manistee County reapportionment and everything.
I looked at what's going on in the schools as well as in the local villages and Townships.
I feel that you have not taken due diligence in honoring we the people of this state.
You on the other hand have a responsibility to do that.
You have failed.
So please and I admonish the board for not mandating all of your members be at all meetings.
This is that important.
And for you to short your duty to us the people is a slap in the face.
Keep our Counties and districts as whole as you can.
There's not a reason.
There may be a fluctuate in population.
I understand that.
Having experienced that through my own Counties.
On the other hand you need to keep us whole.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 63.
>> Good afternoon, my name is David Steele.
While you do this good work, we ask you to recognize the indigenous populations of Michigan as a community of interest.
Per the C.D.C. there are 80,000 tribal peoples in our state.
This is a gross under count as it does not include those who have been disenfranchised due to broken treaties and forced assimilation practices.
This map encompass the sovereign nations of little Travis Bay band of Indians and Grand Traverse Chippewa and Ottawa Indians.
Delineated reservation boundaries and includes vital services tribal and housing complex, community centers and the Indian health services clinics and oversee the well be original of our people with mental health, vision, primary doctor care, maternal health and many more.
It is important to site these places in the creation of the see of this County map.
As we receive basic services within these areas and typically have to live within these areas to receive services.
This map is much more fair and equitable than the one the MICRC has proposed and I request it be used instead thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. . Number 64.
>> Hello. My name is Cara Hunt from Little Traverse Bay of Indians and from Petoskey.

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While you do this good work, we ask you consider us as population of interest per C.D.C. there are approximately 80,000 tribal people in the state.
This is a gross under cut and does not include those disenfranchised due to broken treaties and forced assimilation practices.
It has sovereign nations of Travis Bay Grand Traverse of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians and their reservation boundaries.
This map includes vital services for the tribal communities including housing, complexes, community centers and also the Indian health services clinic issues.
These clinics oversee the well-being of our peoples with a variety of services including mental health vision primary doctor care maternal health and many more.
It's important to cite these places and the creation of this map as we receive basic need services within this area and typically have to live within the service areas to receive.
This map is much more fair and equitable than the that proposed and I request that it be used instead.
I thank you for your time.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 66 or do we have 65.
65.
Okay.
>> Good evening my name is Sarah I'm from grand Michigan.
I'd like to thank the Commissioners for your efforts and for the time to speak to you tonight.
I can understand that this is a difficult process.
And people from communities all across Michigan greatly appreciate you taking the time to listen and consider our input.
Tonight I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of the Commission in working to keep the communities of northern Michigan cohesive.
Northern Michigan is comprised of small agricultural and tourist communities.
The people who reside in communities have shared values that support and help to sustain our small town Northern Michigan vitality that thrives on industries.
We are a unique community and have different values than that of cities a Metropolitan areas please keep Northern Michigan communities together and avoid combining our communities with urban areas to the south.
As an example you can view the proposed Senate lines on the cherry map which places small northern communities Thompsonville and Lake Ion in the same District of Muskegon which share little to no commonality in terms of economic and other interests.
I would like to remind the Commissioners this is a population based issue, not a political issue.

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Considering all the facts and data in your Voting Rights Act analysis is leading down a path of disenfranchise M of the communities of colors despite your best intentions.
It's more important to get this done right now than to get this done fast.
Please be thoughtful and how you draw Detroit, Flint and other communities across the state.
We have large indigenous populations in those communities also.
The Voting Rights Act is meant to help voters of colors elect representatives of their choice so that those representatives can make a difference in the legislature.
Cracking the Black indigenous people of color communities and tilting the playing field towards one political party on your maps fails.
Map holds our values and is much more fair and equitable than the one the MICRC provides.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you sir.
Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 71 please.

>> My name is staff agent retired Tracey Ann Smith and proudly served the national guard for 22 years and in Afghanistan.
I'm here in reference to P6784.
Communities of interest which I am part of.
I am Little Traverse Bay band Odawa Indian and part of obviously a veteran.
While you do this good work, we ask you to recognize the indigenous populations of Michigan as a community of interest to the C.D.C. there are approximately 80,000 tribal peoples in our state that this is a gross under count as it does not include those who have been disenfranchised due to broken treaties and forced assimilation practice which I am part of.
With regard to communities of interest it is not clear where the Commission has followed a systematic way to choose among COI or the draft proposed plans reflect the COI maps.
Some districts appear to break down a part communities and others don't communities of interest is not an excuse to pack voters of a particular party into fewer and fewer districts to weaken their voice in the state of legislature, look at maps and ideas to get to partisan fairness while respecting real communities of interest.
The Commission should accompany any proposed map with an explanation of how the map redistricts.
Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. At this time do we have number 72? Is there a 72? Okay, until we do have a number 72, we will turn back to our live remote public comment.
And I believe we are on number 6.
Kevin Webber.

>> I'm Kevin Webber Leelanau County.

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# UP District Map Concerns

## Basic Info

Submitter: David Guizzetti
Location: Chocolay Township
Submitted: 10/26/2021
Type: written
ID: w7408

## Tags

#yooper #upper peninsula #up

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

To the Commission:
I've looked over many of the proposed maps for the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and I have some serious concerns. It appears as though many UP counties are being proposed to be split up. This does NOT work well for us as here in the rural UP, counties are our communities. There is such vast distance between populated areas and each county usually has just one population center with smaller communities scattered throughout. It's most common for these population centers to be in excess of 80-100 miles apart. As such, each county has challenges unique to them. That large distance between them and their neighbors changes a lot of things.
Up here our highways are nearly all simple two-lane roads with 55mph speed limits and during the winter months travel between can be excessively dangerous and very slow. Splitting the districts and counties would appear to cause our representatives to drive an extensive amount of time and would severely limit the already low representation we already have up here. It will be difficult for constituents to have access to their representatives, especially the elderly and those with mobility issues. These are the citizens who need assistance from their representatives the most.
I implore your committee to re-draw and keep the UP counties and communities together. Thank you.
Respectfully,
David L. Guizzetti
Marquette, MI

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# Upper Peninsula Concerns

## Basic Info

Submitter: Nicholas Smaby
Location: Marquette
Submitted: 10/28/2021
Type: written
ID: w7939

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

Admittedly not my words, but as a resident of the U.P. and Marquette County--I completely concur with this assessment by a friend:
1) Our counties are extensively the most apparent communities of interest in the UP. They each have the same sheriffs, taxes, judges, prosecutors, clerk, jail, road commission, hospitals and health departments, and basic school districts and ISDs.
2) Divided counties, especially heavily divided ones, diminishes the political power of the people and their local governments to advocate for policy from state lawmakers. Commissioners and lawmakers will have to make more contacts, may split their efforts amongst legislators rather than be unified, creating controversy that will make advocacy for each county's position far less impactful.
3) Current draft districts in the UP fail to consider the negative impact to the service and representation the citizens receive by unnecessarily creating enormous distances for the representatives to travel to accomplish their jobs.
4) Unnecessary county divisions also create significant additional workloads for representatives in meeting more government leaders and persons, which then leaves less time for them to serve other counties. For example, the proposed 108th District has huge travel requirements and far more twps, cities, schools, county boards, judges, police, ISDs, villages, mental health boards, job boards, etc.
5) The proposed 38th District change unnecessarily adds multiple twps, county boards, sheriffs, cities, tribes, schools and other entities greatly diminishing the time and bandwidth available for those same entities in the other 13 counties necessary to meet population requirements.
6) Creating unnecessarily large districts unduly impinges on citizens' access to their representatives due to the necessities of travel. This creates a very unfair difference for our citizens and communities which, while somewhat expected due to population, is being enhanced by the unnecessary divisions of counties and sizes of districts created.

7) The size and distances any UP legislator must cover by themselves, plus the complexity and sheer number of local governments, schools, and other organizations, along with the winter weather, are important reasons why UP districts should be allowed to have population deviations that allow the districts to be smaller, and with no split counties. #NonPartisanMyRearEnd #GerrymanderingByAnyOtherNameIsStillGerrymandering

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# Upper Peninsula Input

## Basic Info

Submitter: Follow Impartial Mandate
Location: Delta County
Submitted: 11/5/2021
Type: written
ID: w8828

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

The Upper Peninsula would like to see that local communities remain intact. The current district lines before any redrawing are working as is. Proposed new maps with east-west drawn lines cut many communities into pieces and would lessen and dilute our votes and voices. Representatives would need to travel far distances, represent diverse areas and thus be less ineffective.
The commission must represent the U.P. fairly, even if no commissioners are from the Upper Peninsula.
Also, the commission itself should be composed of Republicans and Democrats equally. Independent commissioners must be 'truly independent'. Currently a strong Democratic leaning is apparent and that must be corrected. All Michiganders deserve a fair commission. Residents of our purple state deserve that each person's vote has the ability to be counted and not diluted over distant communities. Rural resident voices must be able to fairly compete with those of more densely populated areas. Rural communities should remain whole as they currently are.
We require a balanced commission to create fair maps. Follow your mandate of a Balanced Commission creating Fair Maps along with providing public meetings, considering resident input, while providing full transparency and by following the constitution.

# DISTRICT 2

DISTRICT 2

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# Central Michigan State House Map

## Basic Info

Submitter: Michael Heitman
Location: Mt Pleasant
Submitted: 7/11/2021
Type: plan
State House Districts
ID: p1439

## Tags

## More Info

I draw a state house district for the Central Michigan region that includes Isabella County and the northern portion of Gratiot County. There are numerous communities of interest linking the two areas, a few examples being education, transportation, watersheds and tribal land. Also this makes a competitive district with no party having an advantage.

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Map

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

View in Districtr

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# Central Michigan State House district

## Basic Info

Submitter: Amy Perschbacher
Location: Mount Pleasant City
Submitted: 8/10/2021
Type: plan
State House Districts
ID: p2250

## Tags

#isabella #gratiot

## More Info

The redistricting of the state is a large burden but a necessary one deemed by the voters. I have created a map for the central Michigan district that includes all of Isabella county and the northern half of Gratiot county. These area are tied together by various means. We share the RESD, the Chippewa River watershed, and tribal community to name a few. Our economic ties are shared with the 127 highway which is a key transportation route and large infrastructure projects such as the wind turbines. This makes it a reasonable district as we share many aspects of community.

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Map

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

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# Isabella and Gratiot State House Map

## Basic Info

Submitter: Patricia Heitman
Location: Mt Pleasant
Submitted: 8/10/2021
Type: plan
State House Districts
ID: p2259

## Tags

#isabella #gratiot

## More Info

This is a tough job that has been tasked to the commission by the people of Michigan. We have an opportunity to create a fair map for our citizens to have an equal vote for our government. As a resident of Mt Pleasant in Isabella County, I feel the best way to represent Central Michigan is by having a state house district include Isabella County and the northern portion of Gratiot County, around Alma and St Louis.
Our economic ties are particularly strong between Mt Pleasant and Alma, with our transportation, agriculture, and infrastructure. Education is an important connection between the two communities with Central Michigan University and Alma College in close proximity. And the Gratiot- Isabella RESD services the educational needs in both counties.
The job is yours to produce a fair map. Combining Isabella and a portion of Gratiot county would create a fair chance for the citizens to have their voices heard.

## Map

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

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## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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# New 99th State house

## Basic Info

Submitter: Steve Swaney
Location: MT PLEASANT
Submitted: 8/11/2021
Type: plan
State House Districts
ID: p2323

## Tags

#isabella #alma #ithica #us127

## More Info

I am asking you to consider pairing Isabella county and the northern part of Gratiot county in Michigan House District for 99th. There are a lot more ties between Isabella and northern Gratiot. The Gratiot- Isabella Regional Education Service district serves students in public, private and parochial schools in our community. Higher education is an economic and cultural driver. Central Michigan University , Alma College, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College and Mid-Michigan College are located here. The Chippewa Watershed Conservancy strives to protect land, water nd wildlife in Isabella and Gratiot Counties. In Addition, US-127 corridor firmly impacts us all as a single community.

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Map

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

View in Districtr

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

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# Higher Ed in Rural Central Mi

## Basic Info

Submitter: David Eisler
Location: Big Rapids Township
Submitted: 8/28/2021
Type: written
ID: w3147

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

As you consider Michigan state senate redistricting, I would encourage you to strongly consider the community of interest created around higher education for the 33rd Senate district. There is strong consensus around the importance of higher education for the future of our state and citizens, but it can be difficult to create support for this in Lansing. As currently constructed, this district encompasses Clare, Gratiot, Isabella, Mecosta and Montcalm counties. These are mostly rural, contiguous counties but with the commonality of encompassing five institutions of higher education. Each county is the home for a public post-secondary education institution. These include public universities Central Michigan University (Isabella County) and Ferris State University (Mecosta County), community colleges Mid-Michigan College (Clare County), Montcalm Community College (Montcalm County) and the private institution, Alma College (Gratiot County). Grouping these institutions has helped promote collaboration on degree programs, transfer credits, and shared efforts. This helps each institution use the funds effectively and ultimately benefits students throughout these areas and beyond. This critical mass of higher education institutions has helped promote support for these rural institutions in our state.
Thank you for considering this input and for the important work you are leading for Michigan. Please contact me if I may be of additional support to your committee in this process.

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All right. Moving back to the agenda as amended, is there any debate or discussion about the agenda? Hearing none, let's move forward with our motion to approve the agenda. As indicated, we have a motion by Commissioner Witjes to approve the meeting agenda. All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.
All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.
The ayes prevail and the agenda is adopted.
Public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of our meeting.
Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with the public comment pertaining to agenda topics. Individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide in person public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so.
Please step to the microphone when I call your name or number. You will have two minutes to address the Commission. And please conclude remarks when you hear the timer. And, Department of State staff, how many live persons do we have today?
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: We have five in person public comments.
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: So five total, so six with the second?
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Correct.
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: All right, so, number one if you could please approach the microphone and speak.
>> Hi. Name is Mike Williams and I'm a sheriff.
Before I start, thank you all for your service.
I think sometimes we can do thankless jobs and welcome to that brotherhood.
I was disappointed to see the Commission did not keep communities of Gratiot and Isabella and Clare per a comment I made earlier.
I recognize the Commission is under very strict deadline and any major modifications to a draft District are unlikely at this time.
However I submitted a map last night and I'm posing a small change to the draft of District 33 and 35.
A change will make a big impact on keeping communities of interest together without requiring a wholesale me drawing of what the Commission has already done.
My suggestion is very simple somewhat, Newaygo in District 35 and move Gratiot in District 33. Additionally, drop the two Townships on to District 35 for Dade County and that is the changes that I'm suggesting.
What will this accomplish? Newaygo associates more closely with Lake, Osceola. And Gratiot associates with Montcalm and Ionia counties. As the County sheriff I can tell you these three counties in my county, additionally all three counties, have prisons, state prisons, in them. So we have a large population of corrections officers living in our community. Montcalm, Ionia and Gratiot Counties also work together with economic development and decisions.

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There are numerous ties between Montcalm and Gratiot along the M14 corridor and 57 lake corridor for the communities.
I would like that the larger change, I'm at least willing to make this small improvement, which would allow districts 35 and 33 to better represent the communities.
A side benefit is the District also becomes more aesthetically pleasing. And the constitutional requirement, the public to see districts that are a little more intuitive in their shapes.
And that's what I've created. I submitted a plan last night to your portal, so you can look at it there.
Thank you for your consideration. And, again, thank you for your service in this process.
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Number two you may now address the microphone to address the Commissioner.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair, apologies, we are experiencing audio issues. Can you hold on for just one moment?
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Certainly.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I think we are good to proceed. Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Number two, you may go ahead.
>> Sorry. Hello. I'm Stacy Young, president of Montcalm Community College in Montcalm community.
I appreciate all the work you are doing.
It's certainly a difficult task and also thankless and very important to all of us and the public.
I understand that when the Commission was created in the current draft of District 33 the higher education community that exists here in Mid-Michigan was taken into consideration.
Ferris State, Central Michigan, Mid-Michigan Community College and Alma College are all included in draft District 33.
However, Montcalm County and, therefore, Montcalm Community College has been excluded from this community under the current draft proposal.
I submitted a map on the portal last night and comments through the portal for your consideration.
That fixes the problem by reuniting Montcalm County with Mecosta, Isabella, Gratiot and Clare Counties. I'm making these comments in person as well because. I believe this issue is very important and worthy of your thoughtfulness and attention. Having five of the higher education institutions in one Senate District has allowed the voice and therefore the voice of our students and our community to be heard in a unified station in Lansing for the last decade and will benefit or community and will consider as the redistricting proposals are refined and finalized.

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# Keep Gratiot Whole/in Central Michigan

## Basic Info

Submitter: M
Location: Gratiot
Submitted: 9/20/2021
Type: written
ID: w5114

## Tags

#gratiot #central michigan

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

I am writing to the Commission in regard to the disposition of Gratiot County and its townships in the proposed Congressional Maps of your September 20, 2021, session.
Firstly, I believe that the division of four eastern townships (Wheeler, Lafayette, Hamilton, and Elba Townships) of Gratiot County to be included in Proposed District 11 with Saginaw/Flint areas is not reflective of communities of interest in Gratiot County. The proposed split of these townships from the rest of the county would remove some of the largest towns from the county, such as Breckenridge and Ashley, which are key parts of the community. The removal of those townships would remove one-third of the incorporated towns of Gratiot County from being in the same Congressional district (2/6). The proposed map removing townships, that include Breckenridge and Ashley, from Gratiot County would also not reflect current communities of interest in terms of education, commerce, activities, and community relationships. For example, the Gratiot-Isabella Technical Education Center (GI-TEC) is located in Alma and serves high school students from Alma, Ashley, Beal City, Breckenridge, Fulton, Ithaca, Mt. Pleasant, Shepherd, and St. Louis in technical education courses (e.g. welding, mechatronics, agri-science, and health professions). Students and community members interested in similar issues of professional training and education within the same academic program would be in two completely different and unrelated Congressional Districts. In this very rural and agriculture

focused county, there exists more of a relationship and community of interest, in terms of those commerce and community activities, connected to central Michigan than the Saginaw or Lansing areas. Here I think the Commission could reexamine the northeastern portions of District 11 to recoup the needed population instead of dividing significant communities of eastern Gratiot County.

Secondly, I would continue to encourage the Commission to retain Gratiot County within the confines of District 13 and the counties of central/north central Michigan. Previous discussion by the Commission and map drafts proposed the inclusion of Gratiot County with Lansing and other major metro areas. That would simply not be representative of Gratiot County and its relationships with surrounding more rural central Michigan communities. Our schools completed with those in Isabella, Mecosta, Clare, Gladwin, and Midland counties. Business is conducted in the major cities of Clare, Big Rapids, Alma, and Mount Pleasant. Young adults attend locally in the regional population centers where Alma College and Central Michigan University are located, where there is deep connection between those small universities and the communities. For example, Alma College has the Alma College Community Engagement Scholarship where 13 full tuition scholarships are given to Gratiot County, Isabella, and Montcalm students who “desire to pursue a life-changing, liberal arts education” and want to “think critically, serve generously, lead purposefully and live responsibly as stewards of the world they bequeath to future generations.” If Gratiot County was not in District 13, some of those students would be represented by a district different from the local communities they come from and seek to serve in the future.

I would encourage the Commission to not fall victim of doing what is easiest for the congressional population sizes and adjusting more metropolitan proposed districts, but to recognize that Gratiot County plays an important role within the Central Michigan community (Isabella, Mecosta, Clare, Montcalm, Gladwin, Midland counties, etc.) for which it should not be separated.

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As students here we contribute vastly to this community. We not only learn here. We work and eat and play and sleep and live in this community.
This is also our community.
We want the best for it.
And if we keep fair districts here, we encourage civic engagement with young people all across the state.
There is potential to break up campus itself, not to mention our various apartment communities, housed almost entirely off campus students, as well as separate campus from our downtown full of coffee shops and mom and pop restaurants, all deeply tied to Central Michigan University's community itself.
These establishments often started by CMU alumni and attended by current students are in what I would best describe as a symbiotic relationship. We help each other. We benefit from each other. And we probably would not exist let alone thrive without each other. And to separate CMU from our community would be, to put it plainly, unjust.
Today I ask you to please consider the rights of the citizens of Mount Pleasant to elect folks who represent local values and understand local issues. And the best way to do this is by keeping the lines fair.
Finally, I'd like to thank the Commission greatly for time and consideration in this very important issue.
I also like to thank members of the community who will be making their voices heard alongside my own tonight. I implore you to keep this community together as this nonpartisan commission works hard making Michigan more fair and just. The fair and just thing to do is keep communities together. Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Number two?
>> Oops, good evening, Commissioners. My name is Caroline Ross.
I live in Gratiot County, St. Louis, Michigan. I'm a lifelong Michigander and a lifelong resident of this region. I'm also a proud member of the UAW local 6,000 State of Michigan employees, now retired since 1985.
I want to address this Commission on two points.
The first thing being our State House representative in Lansing.
I believe that due to many commonalities between Isabella County and Gratiot County we should share a seat in Lansing.
First, the environmental issues surrounding waterways and agricultural are a constant concern for this region.
Secondly, we share the concern for renewable energy and jobs it creates both in wind and in solar.
Lastly, is our educational institutions in both Mount Pleasant and Alma as well as our regional school districts.
Please consider this when drawing this District.

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We need united representation to work for fair Federal loan and Pell grant policies for fair access for lower income students and for Veterans who deserve to have GI benefits supported.

These colleges also revitalize our downtown and would be helped by a unified Congressional voice representing these urban areas. This would be a fair, nonpartisan District and I urge you to consider again aligning the City of Midland, Bay, Saginaw and Genesee Counties in a Congressional District.

I thank you for listening well to us at these forums and wish you the best in your process.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commissioner number six.

>> Thank you for dropping by.

Last time that U.S. Senator Moolenaar was here, there were law enforcement officers were guarding him.

You ask why?

He did not represent Isabella County.

The reason why he didn't, why he was representing us was because there is a strip of Midland County had been attached to Isabella County.

That is the only reason why he was elected.

There is no commonality.

If you go east on M20 you see that.

Isabella County is a very educated County.

I agree, we should be attached to Gratiot County, not with Midland County.

Thank you.

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

Number seven.

>> Hi. My name is Niki.

I'm from Lansing.

I just want to say thank you, appreciate the work.

I worked on census 2020 throughout the whole year, so I know how hard stuff like this is.

I want to comment on the Senate districts for Lansing and the Congressional districts as well. I think that those drafts do a good job of making fair maps. And I would like to see the same ideas for State House Districts. Greater Lansing is growing and compared to 10 years ago, there are more businesses, places to go, and things to do in the Greater Lansing, especially with CATA running into Ingham, Eaton and Clinton Counties. My House District could be Downtown Lansing, Old Towne and up to Dewitt. A lot of people who work at the main Lansing hospital, Sparrow, commute from Clinton.

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Other speakers have detailed these ties and I hope you will consider these in your decision making.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Number 12.
>> I'm Elizabeth Scott, a fifth generation Midlander.
Thank you for hearing our public comments and drawing a map that keeps Midland County whole.
The City of Midland should not be cut out or sanctioned out of the rural District.
I support the map removing Midland from the proposed 11th District with Saginaw, Bay City and Flint and keeping it with like rural communities in the 13th.
The City of Midland should not be sanctioned out of the rural District.
To do so would harm the rural counties that need to be connected to Midland.
There is a Midland area watershed.
We saw this from the flooding in Midland in 2017.
That was from the waters coming from Isabella and Gladwin, and then the catastrophic flood in 2020 from Gladwin where over 800 residential homes were either affected or destroyed.
Midland and its rural neighboring counties of Gladwin, Isabella, Clare and Gratiot clearly have different concerns than Flint, Bay City and Saginaw. Each area has its own unique set of concerns as reflected in its population and industry.
It is to everyone's advantage to respect these unique districts and represent them appropriately.
I support the map drawn by Commissioner Lange that keeps Midland County and neighboring rural communities together.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Number 13.
>> Hello. My name is Michael. I live in Union Township here in Isabella County.
This is a complex region for the legislative maps.
Former redistricting cycles have placed Isabella County in different districts for both the State Senate and the State House.
At various times in the last 40 years the State House has seen Isabella tied with Mecosta and Clare and Midland Counties. Past decisions have been political with a little care for the manner of representing the people of Central Michigan.
I'm asking you to consider pairing Isabella County and the northern of Gratiot County into the Michigan House District. The numerous ties between Isabella and Gratiot Counties are greater than most in Central Michigan. For example, the Gratiot, Isabella regional educational services students in public, private and parochial schools in both counties. Higher education is an economic and cultural driver. And Central Michigan

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

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# Barry with other Rural Inland

## Basic Info

Submitter: Benjamin Kupper
Location: Delton
Submitted: 9/28/2021
Type: coi
ID: c5587

## Tags

#barry #rural #flooding

## More Info

Barry county does not belong in the District 9 that the commission has drawn. It is very rural and inland. We do not have the same economic base as the urban areas of Kalamazoo or Battle Creek to our south nor the shoreland counties that have large tourism and fishing industries to our West. We would go much better with counties like Ionia, Montcalm and Gratiot that are also rural and face similar concerns such as flooding.

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Map

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

View in Districtr

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# Redistricting

## Basic Info

Submitter: Ed Brown
Location: Shelbyville/Barry
Submitted: 12/4/2021
Type: written
ID: w9232

## Written Testimony

Barry County should not be split 3 ways, that seems insane. We're not part of Kent County, no where near alike, totally different. Urban vs rural. Don't do that! Please!

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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# Chestnut Best Plan for Rural Interests

## Basic Info

Submitter: Maxwell Bosman
Location: Nashville
Submitted: 12/17/2021
Type: written
ID: w9445

## Tags

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Written Testimony

Barry is a rural county and so it is best if our district is included in a rural district. Chestnut is the only one of the three plans that puts us in a rural district. In Birch we're grouped with Kalamazoo and in Apple we're grouped with Lansing. Neither makes much sense for us.

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# Chestnut Best for Rural Representation

## Basic Info

Submitter: Douglas Barsness
Location: Howard Township
Submitted: 12/18/2021
Type: coi
ID: c9455

## Tags

## More Info

Hello. My name is Douglas Barsness and I am a farmer and lifelong resident of Montcalm County. I would like to express my preference for the "Chestnut Plan." This is the only plan that gives us a truly rural 2nd district. In Birch, our district is lumped with urban areas like Muskegon and in Apple we're given too much of the Grand Rapids suburbs. It is too often in Congress that our rural voices are drowned out by people who live in the cities and suburbs. We have unique challenges that deserve to be heard and supported including agriculture, infrastructure, broadband, healthcare, drug addiction, and more. However, I worry that it will be too easy for candidates to ignore us if we are lumped with urban and suburban areas. For that reason, I think you should choose the "Chestnut Plan." I appreciate your service and hope you will consider my two cents. -Doug

## Comments & Feedback

12/21/2021 - **Trenton Berry** (Midland): I would have to agree with you Mr. Barsness, I always thought that putting my city of

## Map

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Midland with rural Central Michigan seemed odd and gave us much more control over who our representative was. With this district, it takes out the bigger cities and allows for your rural areas to elect someone with your areas rural interests and needs. This isn't to say that rural areas should always be kept separate from cities, but in this case if we can allow for more rural areas to be represented with each other and cities be represented with each other makes the most sense. I just believe that Midland would be better represented by other local cites in the area than your rural areas as well as Muskegon being represented by their local cities than the same rural area as well. Chestnut is the best for our areas, and I too believe that this is the best map for the commissioner's to pick as well.

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# Central MI

## Basic Info

Submitter: Lionel Gibbon
Location: St. Louis
Submitted: 12/23/2021
Type: coi
ID: c9483

## Tags

## More Info

This is my "community of interest" for Central Michigan. Most of this area is currently included in District 4 which makes sure our rural voice is represented. Of the new maps, I think Chestnut does the best job of representing our rural community. Birch ties us to Muskegon which we have nothing in common with. Apple is okay but it's kind of more suburban than Chestnut with the parts of Kent and Midland counties included in our district. Thank you for your service. Merry Christmas and God Bless.

## Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

## Map

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