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VOLUME II
PART 1

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DISTRICT 3

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suggestions for Federal districts

Basic Info

Submitter: joy murphy
Location: kentwood
Submitted: 7/3/2021
Type: written
ID: w1371

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

I would like to suggest when District 3 is re drawn that Grand Rapids be grouped with Muskegon or Lowell - I think along the Interstate highway corridors makes more sense then the vertical current District 3.
Also, the I-94 corridor should also be respected. Such as Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Jackson, Benton Harbor have more in common culturally then Grand Rapids.
Historically they have always been working towns. I grew up in Battle Creek and had never been to Grand Rapids until I moved here. I had been to Kalamazoo, Jackson, Lansing many many times.

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Kent County-based Congressional District

Basic Info

Submitter: Jeff Winston
Location: Grand Rapids City
Submitted: 7/29/2021
Type: coi
ID: c1825

Tags

More Info

With Grand Rapids being the regional economic anchor, a Kent County-based Congressional District that keeps the county whole is essential. Muskegon County's demographics best align with Kent County in both rural and urban settings. This district outline represents the best alignment while including whole municipalities and by only splitting one county (Muskegon). *This map reinforces my previously submitted written testimony*

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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Muskegon to Grand Rapids I96 Area

Basic Info

Submitter: Murielle Davis
Location: Muskegon
Submitted: 8/31/2021
Type: coi
ID: c3354

Tags

#muskegon #grand rapids city

More Info

I think the communities around I96 from Muskegon to Grand Rapids are a community of shared interests. Many people in this area commute into Grand Rapids and access services like the hospitals and colleges there. Many people also access amenities and recreation in Muskegon. We also have shared interests regarding the Grand River. Also many Black residents of Muskegon have relatives in Grand Rapids (a lot of our kids move there when they reach adult age). Please consider this my community of shared interests when drawing your maps.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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>> I may be a little late, but I did attend this hearing yesterday when you were working on Northwest Michigan.
And, in particular, I did submit some drawings for you regarding the 92nd State House.
And I just want to reemphasize that the City of Muskegon and Muskegon Heights are home to the largest population of African/Americans in West Michigan.
This cities are together and they should never be separated in accordance with Section Two of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which states no voting qualification or for lack of a prerequisite to voting or standard practice or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any state or political subdivision to deny or abridge a right of any citizen of the United States to vote on the count of race or color.
So, therefore, we are thinking that any attempt to redistrict Muskegon Heights will diminish the voting power of the African/Americans in West Michigan.
Now, it was actually very interesting to watch you reconfigure the 92nd State House because if I was correct what it did is it appeared as though at the end of the thing yesterday it appeared as though you took Newaygo County out of the 92nd State House.
And that you went directly north on the coastline of Lake Michigan and added two more counties.
Now, I have not crunched the numbers yet.
And it all went down too quick for me to look at.
But I just wanted to be assured that, you know.
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Your time has expired.
Next in line to provide public comment is Matt Dame.
>> Hello. Can you hear me?
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.
>> Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Matt Dame from Jackson County. I spoke with you one other time at the Commission's very first public hearing in Jackson, Michigan.
Being that the Jackson hearing was way back in May and seeing now how fall is almost already upon us, I wanted to take a moment to reiterate the prominent communities of interest that came out of your very first hearing.
As a board member of the region two area agency on aging I personally shared how the R2AAA provides services to the elderly in Jackson, Hillsdale, and Lenawee Counties by Federal and state statutes.
At that hearing I also -- was also surprised to hear how many folks came to the microphone to share the same Tri-County area in Jackson, Hillsdale, and Lenawee as they are communities of interest.
One lady mentioned the Irish Hills Chamber of Tourism Group and incorporated the same Tri-County area.

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Congressional Proposal 9/18

Basic Info

Submitter: Zachary Solomon
Location: Ann Arbor City
Submitted: 9/18/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p4839

Tags

More Info

For some reason the portal says my map is 14 districts, but it is the correct 13. It includes 1 majority-black district and a majority-minority district with around a 45% African American population which will still allow the African American population to have a significant voice in the nominating processs and election. One unique proposal I have put in is my 3rd congressional district which would include Muskegon, Grand Haven, and Grand Rapids. This district could ensure a partisan fair map ensuring all statewide officials must win about 7/13 districts to win statewide.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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Don't Do Muskegon Dirty

Basic Info

Submitter: Karyn Macey
Location: Muskegon
Submitted: 9/19/2021
Type: coi
ID: c4923

Tags

#muskegon #muskegon heights city

More Info

Please don't put us in a district that is so heavily rural and white. We should be in a more diverse district with other mid-size cities.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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Muskegon is Diverse

Basic Info

Submitter: Sandra Bowman
Location: Muskegon City
Submitted: 9/19/2021
Type: coi
ID: c4915

Tags

More Info

Please be more thoughtful with the placement of Muskegon. We are a very diverse community whereas the rest our district is not. This is just not fair to place us in such a rural, non-diverse district when we are in fact close to other diverse communities including Holland and Grand Rapids. Please don't crack us off from other diverse communities. We deserve to be more than an afterthought to this commission.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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Proposed Mi -03

Basic Info

Submitter: Fredric Overeem
Location: Rockford
Submitted: 9/23/2021
Type: written
ID: w5381

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

When examining the proposed for district three map. I could see that the district includes mostly urban areas centering around Grand Rapids, extending to Grand Haven. Which maintains a consistent urban character for the district. This will allow a representative to plan projects consistent with his/her constituency . On the proposed map I saw that the community of Rockford was include with the more rural second district. As a resident of Rockford I can say with authority that Rockford is not a rural small town. Educationally, and vocationally Rockford residents have many more common interests with Grand Rapids and its surrounding suburbs than the rural towns to the north.

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Statewide map of Michigan proposal.

Basic Info

Submitter: Aidan
Location: Richmond
Submitted: 9/28/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p5588

Tags

#black #districtmap #minority #fullmap

More Info

This plan, i have drawn in Districtr, is meant to group communities together that should be together, many communities statewide have many different reasons for voting one way or the other, and i attempted to take these into account while drawing districts.
I viewed many of your earlier proposals and the way they split counties like Macomb and Oakland, and i feel that it is wrong to put the Heavily unionized areas of Southern Macomb with more conservative suburbs to their north, and thus, in my proposal, i have fixed that Grand Rapids and Muskeon should have a district together, as both share common interests, and as such i have put them together, however i made them more compact and all seats contiguous over land only, in comparison to your previous map
This map preserves the 2 Maj-Min seats required in detroit, leading to both of them getting better representation than any of the other proposals have
Flint and Saginaw have wildly differing interests from the rural towns around

Map

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View in Districtr

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

them, and so a district with them and Midland and Pleasant mound would be beneficial, due to the fact that Pleasant Mound and Midland are also mid sized towns and not rural areas, and so will have more to do with Flint and Saginaw.
I made a district running from Northwest to Central Michigan, which is almost entirely rural, which could elect a representative to focus on issues that specifically impact rural communities, instead of having to share with more urban or suburban communities.
And I think that keeping Battle Creek and Kalamazoo together should be a priority, as the two towns are quite similar, and so i made a seat running in southern michigan to keep them together.
As for Ann Arbor, Both them and Monroe are mid sized cities outside of Detroit, and i think they would be better represented together than placed in with expansive rural areas or inner detroit as they are on the current map.
Thank you for considering this proposal.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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Muskegon and Muskegon Heights

Basic Info

Submitter: DeVonte Wright
Location: Muskegon Heights City
Submitted: 9/28/2021
Type: coi
ID: c5562

Tags

More Info

Muskegon and Muskegon Heights have one of the highest share of Black residents of anywhere outside of metro Detroit and Flint. It would not serve our interests to be in a 90% white district. We belong with a more diverse district like the one encompassing Grand Rapids. This is important so that we can elect candidates that fight for civil rights, voting rights, criminal justice reform, public education, and supporting Black-owned business. If we are deluded in a very White district our interests will be ignored.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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West MI I-96 Corridor Congressional Map

Basic Info

Submitter: Will F.
Location:
Submitted: 10/12/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p6507

Tags

#west michigan

More Info

It's become clear to me that the only way to respect the wishes and natural connection of Grand Rapids to the coast as well as keeping Holland with a Southwest Michigan coastal district and the wishes of Muskegon not to be diluted with areas to the north is a Congressional map that connects Grand Rapids and Muskegon and adds in progressive Grand Haven. This mostly respects the divides within Ottawa itself better than most of the collaborative maps, and keeps Grand Rapids from having that weird thing where it takes in tiers of townships in Ionia and Ottawa but not actual Ionia city, itself. Commissioner's Eid individual maps seems to do this the best, and I have submitted my own version of this. It doesn't have to look weird; there doesn't have to be a robot arm. It just has to include Grand Haven. I've drawn the districts that it would border it to show you how you can do this within a larger context. But, unless you do this GR-Muskegon connection the only other options are the two that have been submitted with the collaborative maps: 1. The one that splits Ottawa County is a

Map

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View in Districtr

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

way it shouldn't be split, or 2. the GR-Kalamazoo district whose borders beggar's belief. I think this is the compromise, in fact, the only compromise that works to give every one something.

Comments & Feedback

10/13/2021 - **Anthony** (Detroit): suburban Wayne county with Allegan county ?

10/13/2021 - **Will** : Draw that district however you want, Tony; it's literally not the point of the post which is made clear in the post. But, mostly, just leave me alone.

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MICRC
10/22/21 1:00 pm Meeting/Public Hearing
Captioned by Q&A Reporting, Inc., www.qacaptions.com

>> CHAIR SZETELA: As Chair of the Commission, we will bring the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 1:11 p.m.

This Zoom webinar is being live streamed on YouTube at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC YouTube channel.

For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they are currently using, please visit our social media at Redistricting MI to find the link for viewing on YouTube.

Our live stream today includes closed captioning. Closed captioning, ASL interpretation, and Spanish and Arabic and Bengali translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting. Please E-mail us at Redistricting@Michigan.Gov for additional viewing options or details on accessing language translation services for this meeting.

People with disabilities or needing other specific accommodations should also contact Redistricting at Michigan.gov.

This meeting is also being recorded and will be available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC for viewing at a later date and this meeting also is being transcribed and those closed captioned transcriptions will be made available and posted on Michigan.gov/MICRC along with the written public comment submissions.

There is also a public comment portal that may be accessed by visiting Michigan.gov/MICRC, this portal can be utilized to post maps and comments which can be viewed by both the Commission and the public.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, our Communications and Outreach Director for the Commission at WoodsE3@Michigan.gov or 517-331-6309.

For the purposes of the public watching and for the public record I will now turn to the Department of State staff to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good afternoon, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending Today's meeting remotely, please disclose during roll call you are attending remotely and where you are attending from, I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

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Just want to quickly address the issue of you know Ottawa County is the fastest growing County in the State of Michigan and Kent County is the second growing fastest second fastest growing County in the State of Michigan.
So it's frustrating to see us be split.
Unnecessarily.
And when you look at the map, I thought some of the comments today are clever.
The apple map actually increases the partisan advantage.
It's just to a different party.
And so it's a clever way for some of the speakers today to talk about how it's bringing it together when it actually increases the partisan advantage and it happens to advantage a particular party.
When you look at the Senate maps or back on the Congressional side, it's also frustrating to see our communities like Rockford lumped in with Midland County to all the sudden have a two hour discrepancy when it's unnecessary to do it.
So I really do implore you to keep us intact.
I find it ironic in some of the speakers advocating to keep Cascade in Kent County.
But then turning around and supporting the apple map and putting Grand Rapids with Kalamazoo.
So there is a little bit of irony and hypocrisy going on here and I understand your job is very difficult but implore you to try to keep us intact and reward us for our great economic policies making us the fastest growing region in the State of Michigan.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 55.
>> Actually I'm 56.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead sir.
>> Thank you.
My name is Larry Moss.
I'm mayor pro tem of the City of Greenville.
I serve as a nonpartisan member of the planning Commission and the Greenville City Council.
Greenville is a community about 35 miles north and east of Grand Rapids.
I would like to first thank you all for your commitment and your hard work.
I know this is not an easy job.
And you're getting advice from lots of different directions.
And good luck with all of that.
Oh, is it possible to get a map up? Or is it too late?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead which map do you want.
>> Number 230 the birch map.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Could we bring up 230, birch?
>> I'll keep talking while you're doing that Greenville is very definitely a West Michigan community.

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Don't know that people are actually controlling how the maps will look for the next ten years.
But complaining about the power structure here in the State of Michigan.
So I ask that you guys think about the other people that don't know about these meetings regardless of ethnicity.
That you guys make it fair and equitable for everyone.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 130 or 131.
>> Good evening I'm 131 and my name is Tom and I'm a City Commissioner for Kentwood.
I literally spent 14.5 years driving down 131 working in Allegan for 14.5 years.
And worked with people from Kalamazoo and the lakeshore.
And Kalamazoo is by no means a community of interest with Grand Rapids.
So the map, the apple map does not reflect what you're targeting and it does not accomplish your goals.
That map I've worked with people in Rockford and Ada, they consider themselves part of Grand Rapids.
Where people in Kalamazoo they do not consider themselves part of the Grand Rapids area.
So the Congressional map apple I'm opposed to.
The State Senate and State House we ask you consider keeping the City of Grand Rapids as a whole.
And putting together Kentwood and East Grand Rapids in that Senate and House Districts.
We share 28th Street and 44th Street with the City of Grand Rapids.
So the decisions they make on their side of the street effects our side of the street.
If you were to drive down 28th Street there is two major malls on the corner of 28th.
And Beltline which is the highest tax revenue corner in the State of Michigan.
But we have center point mall which is on the east side which is managed by the City of Grand Rapids.
We have wood land mall on the west side which is Kentwood.
So the decisions we make and the police we send to the accident and fire we send to an accident we share those resources as a group so thank you very much.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 132.
>> I'm 132.
My name is Roy.
And I'd like to commend the Commission for coming to Grand Rapids to have a listening.
And the maps of the State House I appreciate what you've done with the community of Kent County the Grand Rapids environments.

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And when I looked at it, I was kind of shocked.
And it was clear to me what your motive is.
And it's obviously more clear that there is no one from this side of western Michigan on this Commission.
What your motive is.
Obviously, you're trying to fix what you call gerrymandering with more gerrymandering.
It can't be any clearer.
I would like everyone to know that I happen to live exactly at a point where Grand Rapids or Ada Cascade Townships and Lowell Townships all come together in the corner and I'm right there.
I have a Lowell phone.
I have Ada address but I vote in Cascade.
We are in the forest hill school District.
All this area, all these schools they all play together.
They all pay sports together.
We all see each other.
I have family that lives in Rockford.
I have people and friends that are in Lowell.
We spend a lot of time in Lowell.
And you are splitting all this up this is true not just in Grand Rapids but other areas.
And so to me I'd like to say it's pretty clear what you're trying to do.
And we are on to it.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 135.
>> I'm number 135 my name is Carla.
I'm a real estate agent I lived in Michigan all my life.
Most of it about 50 years in Ottawa County the last ten in Kent County.
I don't even know what to say.
I'm so disappointed in all of the maps as the lady prior to me said.
This is just more gerrymandering to end gerrymandering.
I thought your job was to take the census data and keep and sort out a population.
Keep municipalities whole.
Try to keep lines as straight as possible.
There is no way that you can figure into every one's communities of interest if there is ten million people in Michigan you will have ten million communities of interest.
Keep the lines as straight as possible.
Keep the districts together.
Specifically the apple map just blows my mind.
I live in Rockford.
I don't think I've ever been to Midland.

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I don't want to be a part of that area.
I consider myself just north of Grand Rapids.
I go to Grand Rapids all the time.
Don't do much up north further than that.
Also Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo in the same District, I don't even see the feasibility of that at all.
I don't know what you're thinking with that.
These maps need to be redone.
You're not here to dictate where people -- it's like people will live where they want to live.
They choose to live around a school District or on a Lake front or they choose to live on the east or the west or the northern part of Michigan.
You can't draw lines to suit where these people choose to live.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 136.
>> I was at the TCF Wednesday evening.
In the meantime I did more research and my astonishment, I ran into something with the Commission.
The Commission is made up four republicans, four democrats and two of the self-identified Ms. Szetela and Mr. Eid their political actives align with the democratic party candidates and the democratic party policies.
So I respectfully ask the Commission to fix this first.
And then to put a better fitting process in place because self-identification doesn't work.
Thank you very much.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Commissioner Kellom?
>> CHAIR KELLOM: This is Commissioner Kellom I would just like to make a friendly reminder that we welcome all comments.
But please be aware that you should be addressing the entire Commission.
And not any individuals.
Thank you so much and we welcome to hear from the rest of you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Kellom.
137.
>> Good evening I'm number 137.
My name is Ivan.
I was born and raised in Grand Rapids.
I've lived in the rose village park neighborhood.
Wyoming and I was born in the Birmingham neighborhood.
My vibes I think you are interested in specifics so I want to draw your attention to a little more particular streets and lines.

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communities whole. So consider moving Ottawa, extend the GR to wealthy and District 24, thanks for all the work you are doing.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is 61, Henrietta.

>> Good morning can you hear me?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Good morning, Commission. Thank you so much for letting me to come in and speak. My name is Henrietta I'm a community organizer out of the City of Detroit. And I just want to say thank you for all the hard work that you have been doing. And we truly, truly appreciate the fact that you, you know, we are happy with what you did with the map for the house, for the State House and Senate house seats. And we are asking that you continue the course when you are redistricting the State House map for citizens in the City of Detroit. Partisan fairness is very important. For the voting power and the people of interest in the City of Detroit. Those community of interest would be neighborhoods hit by gentrification, and neighborhoods in the lower west side and the lower east side. So when you are redistricting the Congressional house map, please stay the course. Don't be bullied by the people whose trying to pull the strings for you to pull in their direction.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. James Fisher, number 62.

>> Hi, I'm James Fisher, I'm a lifelong resident of Midland County. I'd like to urge you to keep the City and County of Midland together and associate to the north and west and Midland and Counties to the west and north have strong shared interests and long histories of cooperation and agricultural, healthcare, education and economics. And we share a common interest in flood mitigation and restoration of the failed Dams and urging the Commission to keep the City and County of Midland whole and connect the counties to the north and west. Now more than ever we need to be able to speak with a single voice in Government. I also think the Lange Congressional map is a good start. So thank you for listening and thank you for serving.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 64, Art, Reyes.

>> Unmute, okay thank you very much. For taking the time to listen to the public my name is art Reyes resident of Genesee County. I'm asking that you do take into consideration partisan fairness when we go. You know the thing that we voted for prop two in 2018 to rid Michigan of the rigged system. And the work that you're doing is going a long way towards doing that but we want fair maps that will create a level playing field which will hopefully have our representatives work more for compromise versus telling to the political extremes. So please take into consideration as much as you can political or partisan fairness. Thank you.

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Janine Iyer.

>> Yes. I'm Janine, Genoa, Livingston County. I want to thank you all for the service to our state and not Districting to Genoa or any southern Townships of Livingston with parts of Ann Arbor for the State Senate map. I encourage you to also refrain from Districting Genoa with parts of Ann Arbor for the State House map as well. Our Genoa community is tightly knit with other neighboring rural Livingston Townships and Marian and Brighton and not with Ann Arbor. My community service groups are based in Howell and serve the local Livingston County areas and shop and recreate in Howell and Brighton not Ann Arbor it takes ten minutes from my home to drive to Howell grocery stores or restaurants. Whereas it takes me 40-45 minutes to drive to any store or restaurant in Ann Arbor. I rarely if ever make the trip down there. There is neither proximity nor association or community commonality with Ann Arbor. So please keep this in mind when drawing State House maps. Thanks for your attention. Have a great day.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Chris M, number 66.

>> Hi, thank you for the work you are doing on the Commission. It's very much appreciated. I'd like to draw your attention to the Maple syrup map that I posted on the portal. This is a tweaked version of your Maple Congressional map which provided a great base line of however this map, Maple syrup, gets you in compliance with the constitutional rules including with unperson one vote. VRA compliant communities of interest and has good partisan fairness while honoring the rest of the constitutional priorities. The efficiency gap may be higher than some folks would like it allows for the state as a whole to be competitive. Again I would encourage you to take a look at the Maple syrup map and appreciate all the work that you are doing. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Kristi Cox, number 67.

>> Yes, I'm Kristi from Genoa Township, Livingston County. Thank you for the work you are doing. It's a thankless task. And thanks last Friday keeping Genoa with the rest of Livingston and keep us here. And I was born and raised here. We are a rural community with rural ideals. We still have a great deal of agricultural and we tend to conduct our business locally, and socially locally. We recreate locally. These values have enabled us to keep a low tax base with high standard of living.
it's important we receive representation that is particular to our community since we are like any that border us. Again thank you for your consideration. And the inordinate amount of time you are spending on this very important issue.

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

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

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>> Hello, Commissioners. Can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> My name is Yousif from Troy and nice to see you again. I heard Commissioners Szetela dismissing the idea to include the east of Sterling heights to west of Sterling Heights in Troy. And Chaldean voices living in eastern Sterling Heights I respectfully disagree with Commissioner Szetela. District 6 has not done well. What is COI between Sterling Heights and Detroit. Just because Chaldeans don't show up on the map it does not mean we done exist I assure you we are real. Thank you, Commissioner Kellom and Eid, to speak up for the Chaldeans in West Bloomfield and sign up for the minority who are unfairly registered as whites and give us a voice. I do appreciate all the hard work you have done. Commissioners Szetela. But please do not dismiss our voices. Please do not dilute Chaldean voices living in east Sterling Heights thank you and I will continue to pray for each one of you.

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

>> Hello, can you hear me?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> I'm a 17 year of Livingston and live in Genoa Township and want to thank you for keeping us together as a County with your redistricting map. And also ask that you would continue to do that when you go to the State Senate and house state maps when you redistrict those. Just we very rarely go to Washtenaw County or Ann Arbor. We shop locally. We recreate locally. Our friends and neighbors are here and they all do the same. And we just want to keep our small town feel to our communities and we thank you so much for your time and all your attention to this effort. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 75, Joe Watza.

>> Thank you for taking time to listen to us. I'm Joe Watza I live in Livingston in Hamburg Township. I won't...I'll be quick. Livingston County thank you for keeping us whole. As an example I live in Hamburg Township but a Brighton phone number, the school District in Pickney, my mail is in Howell, and keeping us whole keep representatives that have issues and represent us better and we know all about having good representation regardless of party affiliation is critical to a strong and healthy society. Also we in livings Township County cheer for U of M and MSU.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Kevin Green, number 76.

>> Good morning.

My name is Kevin. Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Good morning my name is Kevin Green. I'm the Algoma supervisor in Kent County. Algoma has been working closely and collaboratively with Plainfield Township and City of Rockford to bring clean drinking water into our communities for our residents

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. That concludes our public comment for this morning however I'd like to mention that all e-mailed and mailed public comment is provided to the Commission before each meeting and the Commissioners review the public comment portal on www.Michigan.gov/MICRC website on a regular basis. We appreciate everyone who provides public comment in whatever way they choose to do so and share your thoughts communities of interest and maps. At this point we will move to unfinished business deliberations regarding pose proposed maps but before we do that, we are going to take a brief recess. Without objection we will recess for 15 minutes. Hearing no objections it is currently we will say 11:38 so we will stand in recess until 11:55.

[All right we are in recess until 11:55.

[Recess]

>> CHAIR SZETELA: As Chair of the Commission I call the meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 11:58 p.m. will the secretary please call the roll.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely Madam Chair.
Commissioners, please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please disclose you are attending remotely and disclose your physically attending from. I will start with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present; attending remotely from Detroit, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?
Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Present; and attending remotely from Wayne County, Michigan.
Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present; attending remotely from Reed City, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> VICE COMMISSIONER ROTHHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

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for the renaming of Grandville avenue for Chavez. It is in Wyoming a majority of Hispanics live. So our voice will be heard in Lansing, you have the ability to make a State House District that has the largest population of Hispanics possible right here in Kent County. And you can do that by drawing a District made up of all of Wyoming. And at the most.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Ellen Beal number 41.

>> Good morning can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Okay, my name is Ellen Beal and reside in Fruitport village in the County of Muskegon and I'm here to talk today about the chestnut map which I'm in strong support of. It puts together Grand Rapids Kentwood and Muskegon and recognizes we all share I-96 as an economic corridor and I think it's absolutely brilliant. While Muskegon is on the lakeshore, we are the only City on the lakeshore that is racially and economically diverse. And so I think that it is very important that we are joined more with people that we have things in common with. We also have a high poverty rate in Muskegon. The median income for households is 32000. Compared to Holland which is 57,000. I think it is very important that we are in the Congressional District with Grand Rapids and Kentwood because this would give our minority population and our people in poverty more voice.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Lena.

QUESTION:

>> Glenna.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Glenna are you ready.

>> Yes, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> I would like to thank this Commission for their hard work and hearing feedback I know it's tedious but it's really important to internalize this feedback as you finalize your maps. I live in Saugatuck and would like to comment on the proposed Pine State House map. I like that the new lakeshore House District 87 includes communities from New Buffalo in the south all the way up there Ganges in the north but stops short of including Saugatuck and Douglas. We are lumped in District 87 with inland agricultural communities. I ask that Saugatuck Douglas be included in District 87 lakeshore communities have unique needs and issues. And we makeup obvious communities of interest. So thank you. I also think the State Senate map should include communities all the way from Holland down south through New Buffalo. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Abby Clark.

>> Good morning, Commission thank you for the opportunity to speak. I have been watching a lot of your work over the past many months and have tremendous respect

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on the current State House maps you are working on. I'm very upset that yesterday Commissioners sent to the breaking up of the Albion Battle Creek House District. It has an incredibly strong community of interest and I know this because I attempted Albion college where I earned my degree for four years and went to Battle Creek for meetings and going out for the beauty. They are willing to break up the African/American in the two cities alluded to by other commenters this is wrong. Watching the individual precincts of other minority groups in Grand Rapids and Oakland County at the house level and completely disregard a community of interest that has been repeatedly been spoken in favor of is not taking into consideration the Black interest. The shape of the District should not matter please put Battle Creek and Albion together thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 48, Jason Colella.

>> We can see you Jason but we can't hear you. No we are not hearing you, Jason. There we go, yes.

>> Hello, my name is Jason. I'm from Muskegon Michigan. And I am speaking today about the Congressional maps. First in favor of the chestnut map but more so against a lot of the other variations of the map in which Muskegon County is placed in connection with rural Counties going all the way in some versions all the way to Lake Huron. The community of interest here in Muskegon County is West Michigan. Not rural counties and not the coast of Lake Huron. So the chestnut map which has Muskegon County in connection with Grand Rapids, contrary to one of the previous public comments just a second ago is the strongest community of interest. I-96 the major highway connects Muskegon directly to Grand Rapids. I know countless folks who live in Muskegon work in Grand Rapids and vice versa. A lot of times people are going out to Grand Rapids, keep West Michigan together with Muskegon with Grand Rapids.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 49, John Poelstra.

>> Do you hear me.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Yes, we do.

>> All right very good. My name is John. I'm a resident of Hamburg Township which is in livings Township County. I believe that Livingston County fits the direction of a community of interest much like Clinton County. As a relative medium sized County population all of our school Directors intercom Pete with each other annually. Our children County wide play on the same club sport teams and drive regularly to other Livingston County stores churches and family and friends outside of our Township. In short, we know each other and developed close relationships with one another at a County level. But the you wish to divide up Livingston County into other districts specifically Senate District 22, contrary to others oppose such action I myself would more than be happy with that decision from a political perspective. It would give.

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Michigan is not acceptable. The map already what's a high bias in favor of the republican party. And completely disenfranchises minority communities in Muskegon, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids. I supported Voters Not Politicians and support the work you are doing on the Commission. I urge you to please fix West Michigan, the apple and chestnut maps provide some options for how to do this. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you. Number 73, Andrew.

>> Hi, can you hear me.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Yes.

>> I want to thank you guys for the work you are doing and letting me speak. I do want to push back against some of these assertions that these partisanly fair maps are somehow gerrymandered. I think folks are used to have the maps stacked in their favor and if they can't win on fair maps that is theirs to deal with. I want to you know I know I'm beating a dead horse saying partisan fairness is important and that a 4.3% efficiency gap is just unacceptable. We you got close to it close to 0 on the Senate map and I think we can do it on the house map as well. Let's just get those numbers down to 0.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 74, Sonya Patrick.

>> That participant is not present.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Do we have number 75, Mari-Rymar.

>> Hello, hi my name is Mari-Rymar from Ypsilanti I would like to thank you for your work in drawing a more partisanly fair State Senate map. Thank you for taking our feedback seriously and making connections. I ask you please do the same with the State House map and reduce the 4.3 efficiency gap. Our Constitution mandates that districts shall not provide a disproportionate advantage to any political party. A 4.3 efficiency gap in favor of one party is still too high. I also thank you for listening to the voices of residents in Detroit and to please continue complying with the Voting Rights Act while drawing the maps. Another way to improve democracy is to stop the process of prison gerrymandering at least in the State House and stat State Senate if not at the Congressional level because our state laws already require Counties cities and towns to exclude people in state prisons who are not residences and it should be the same on the state and house Senate levels. Redistricting community in Pennsylvania has already acted on its own account incarcerated people.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 76, Max Lewis.

>> Hi, Commissioners, can you hear me.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Yes, we can.

>> I just want to start by saying thank you all so much for the incredible amount of work you have put into it at this point. I know this has been a long slog of a process but we are really grateful for your dedication as the maps get more complicated and the decisions get harder. I do want to remind you all that partisan fairness should not be

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you draw Kent County districts, please do not combine fair outline farmland with downtown Grand Rapids. They do not share much in common. Rather include the gather Rockford school District which is largely composed of suburban developments. This is a much better community of interest. Map P7 excuse me map P8747 best achieves this. Again thank you for your work creating Pine map version five for the State House. Please carry that same attention to detail to your state Senate map and refer to P8747. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Next in line is number 115, Robert Dindoffer.

>> I am on, but I don't have the link. It's not.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can hear you so we can hear you.

>> Okay great, thank you. So let's start. I would like to request that you take a look at some of the Detroit neighborhoods and some of the Macomb County neighborhoods in the State Senate map to make a few minor shifts that will make some communities whole. The first one is in the north end of Detroit. North end neighborhoods should be made whole. You could do this by shifting a little bit of population from five to six basically making those Detroit neighbors on the north end whole which was requested at the TCF center. The end result of this, these shifts will be more of the Chaldean community can be put together in Sterling Heights as well but step two is to make Macomb Township whole by moving population from five to two. That will make another community whole. Third step either make Shelby or Oakland Township whole moving population from 16 to or from 16 to 2 in the State Senate and the fourth one with move population in Sterling Heights from 6-16 to move more of the Chaldean.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 116 Meagan R.

>> Good morning, Commissioners first and Foremost I want to thank you for everything that you have been doing so far in this process. I'm not here to talk specifically about maps but more about the process. You guys moving forward. I know that the Commission is going to have a conversation today related to individual Commissioner submitting maps for the Monday deadline. And I just would encourage you under the wonderful stance of transparency you have so far that if you guys continue to have the deadline Monday at Noon that Monday afternoon that those shape files and all of the information for the maps submitted by the individual Commissioners be published on the website for the public. Thank you, guys, for your time and appreciate all that you're doing.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is 117, Yousif-Yousif.

>> Hello Commissioners. Good morning. It's Yousif. I support apple V2 and Magnolia for house map. I appreciate Commissioner Eid for being persistent and giving Chaldeans a bigger voice. Thank you, all Commissioners, for approving Magnolia for publication. I want to thank you all for all your hard work. You Commissioners did a

← Next Previous →

Chestnut Map is Best!

Basic Info

Submitter: Frankie Hill
Location: Muskegon
Submitted: 11/7/2021
Type: written
ID: w8909

Tags

#muskegon #muskegon city
#muskegon heights city
#muskegon township
#grand rapids charter township
#grand rapids city #chestnut #eid

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Of the three maps moving forward, I strongly prefer the Chestnut Map. I grew up in Muskegon, and I believe that it belongs with Grand Rapids in one congressional district. I encourage all commissioners to vote for Chestnut!

← Next Previous →

Support for Chestnut Finalist Map

Basic Info

Submitter: Anthony P
Location: Van Buren Township
Submitted: 11/8/2021
Type: written
ID: w8949

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Hello! I've been following the congressional redistricting process closely over the past few months and I felt compelled to submit a quick comment in support of the Chestnut finalist map, which I view as far superior to the other two. I've been looking at all of the draft maps that have come out with a critical eye for two main things: to see if the map reflects Michigan's partisan lean, and to accurately group communities that make sense to be together. While all three finalists have a good partisan balance, Chestnut is the only one that I believe groups the different areas of Michigan together in an effective way. Both the Grand Rapids/Muskegon and

Macomb-area districts are best drawn here, and I fear that under the other two maps, each of these communities become diluted and do not end up with a representative that aligns with their interests. A Democratic-leaning Macomb district absorbs areas of Oakland County that tend not to align with those voters' interests, and drawing Grand Rapids with other cities besides Muskegon tends to exclude areas that vote alongside GR (Specifically Allendale, which is siloed to a solidly Republican district under any map besides Chestnut). I am happy to provide further comment, but I hope this sheds a bit of light on why I see the Chestnut map as best for Michigan voters' interests.

← Next Previous →

Chestnut doesn't disenfranchise Muskegon

Basic Info

Submitter: Andre Matthews
Location: Muskegon Heights City
Submitted: 11/14/2021
Type: coi
ID: c9003

Tags

More Info

Chestnut is the only plan that doesn't disenfranchise voters of color in Muskegon and Muskegon Heights. It makes a lot of sense for us to be in a district with other communities of color in the greater GR area as well as connected to other communities along the I96. A lot of people who live in these communities commute either to Grand Rapids or to Muskegon. The other plans don't really reflect mobility patterns or demographics in the area.

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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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is number 74, which is Rae-Ann-Weymouth.

>> Rae-Ann-Weymouth, Ann Arbor, Michigan. I spoke before the person in person at Cadillac Place in September.

My message today is essentially the same.

We need fair maps without partisan bias.

The lines you establish are for the next ten years.

I'm 73 years old.

I want my vote to carry its proper weight during the next decade.

To meet the mandates of the Constitution, preferable maps are for U.S. Congress Birch and Szetela. State Senate, Linden and Cherry. State House Hickory is the least objectionable, but still heavily skewed republican.

Vote for fair maps, veto unfair maps, that is your constitutional imperative.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 75, Robert Kennedy.

>> Hello, can you hear me?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> We are currently at a tipping point in our state and our country we can either strengthen our representative democracy or we can let it slide backwards. In 2018 over 60% of us believe we were adding strength passing by proposal two, designed to take the redistricting process out of the hands of politicians where the districts have been stacked and packed to the point of giving the vote of one person more value than the vote of other.

One half of the goal has been accomplished. We have you, 13 Michigan residents asked to draw new and fair districts for the next decade. Now it's up to you whether you choose to implement the other half and give each person's vote the same value. To do this, please choose the maps with the lowest value in the partisan fairness matrix. Efficiency gap, lopsided margins and mean median comparison. I recommend Senate would be the Linden map. Reject the Palm map. And House, Hickory, although that is the least bad, you can refine that one. And Chestnut for the Congress.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 76, Daniel Hess.

>> That participant is not present. We can move to 77.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 77 is Karen Obits.

>> My name is Karen Obits. I'm a resident of Spring Lake, which is the north Ottawa County, part of the Tri-Cities.

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And I like the Chestnut Congressional map because it encompasses my community of interest, which is both the area of my residents and the Grand Rapids and Muskegon urban areas, which I frequent regular for recreational purposes.

Of the collaborative state maps, I prefer the Linden. But I also endorse Commissioner Kellom's Senate map because it scores equally well as the Linden with partisan fairness while potentially increasing the opportunity for African/Americans to elect candidates of choice.

The Palm map is bad for the Mitten state. Of the House maps, I request that you only consider the fairest option if you are not going to do any more drawing, and that would be the Hickory map.

If more drawing is allowed, I'm hopeful that you can do your very best to give fair representation for historically marginalized communities because that is an outcome I would like the Commission to prioritize as much as possible. And I thank you very much for your work.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 78, Kathleen-Curell.

>> I want to say right on and bravo for Nick O'Keefe for his comments. Hi, I'm Kathleen-Curell from Midland and I want to say I appreciate the work you are doing would be putting it very lightly.

Excuse me.

I have the upmost respect for your services to the citizens of Michigan.

As I've listened and participated in comments, there is no getting away of the fact the huge majority of citizens are imploring you to improve partisan fairness of the maps.

It's really the whole reason proposal two was started when Katie Fahey made a Facebook post that said who wants that take on gerrymandering? You will never make everyone happy, but please take whatever extra time you need to improve the message of partisan fairness.

I'm asking for the Hickory map with more work on removing the republican lean. And Chestnut for Congress and Linden for Senate.

And thank you again. What you are doing gives me hope for the future of democracy.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 79, Dusty Horwitt.

>> Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> I'm Dusty Horwitt from Lansing and want to thank the Commission for listening to the Lansing community while drawing your maps.

As the Commission knows from its own analysis, every map has a measurable republican bias.

The Commission should work to reduce and eliminate any partisan bias from their maps.

← Next Previous →

Apple/Chestnut Hybrid plan

Basic Info

Submitter: Jack Bengtsson
Location: Kentwood
Submitted: 12/14/2021
Type: other
ID: o9327

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

External Link

Link:
https://davesredistricting.org/join/aa07bc3e-e079-4d7f-893e-13a792d37348

Written Testimony

Being from West Michigan, either the Chestnut, or the Apple seem to be the best options. Personally, I prefer the Chestnut. I think Muskegon may have more in common with Grand Rapids than Kalamazoo, and Chestnut has more competitive districts than Apple. But there are detractors with both plans, as well as the others. And, I have problems with both plans myself. In fact, I've submitted a slightly tweaked version of Chestnut already. So, maybe, the answer is an Apple/Chestnut hybrid, which I have done on Dave's Redistricting app. This hybrid looks more like Apple in West Michigan and Chestnut in Southeast Michigan with some revisions. I think you'll find that most metrics are better with the hybrid than they are with either original plan. Should the commission become deadlocked on the existing plans, perhaps, this plan might serve as a possible compromise or alternative.
In Southeast Michigan, I've taken Southfield Township out of the 12th and added Oak Park and Royal Oak Township, and a couple other changes to accommodate those moves. And just as I did with the revised Chestnut plan, I moved Dearborn into the 13th. While I'm not from that part of the state, it just seemed to make more sense to me to do it that way.

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have any more or is that it?

Okay, so we have completed the in person comment for this morning.

At this point we will move on for remote public comment. We are supposed to break before Noon, but we will try to get a few in before then.

So individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide live, remote commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so.

If you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak. If you are on the phone a voice will say that the host would like you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute.

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

If your audio still does not work, you can e-mail us at redistricting@Michigan.gov and we will help you troubleshoot so you can participate during the next public comment period, at a later hearing or meeting.

You will have one minute to address the Commission.

Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

First in line to provide public comment is Mr. James Gallant.

>> Hello. This is James Gallant, Marquette, these are my opinions. Your September 17, 2020, transcripts reveal Secretary of State Joyce Benson has disoriented the MICRC concerning the requirements of Roberts Rules of Order by sowing disinformation and misinformation in the public record and the elections process in Michigan to benefit the democratic party.

Your actions to schedule a formal vote on a specific future date is not trauma-informed practices.

Because the fundamental pennant is empathy, which is understanding and responding to the rights of others.

As I identify as a person of color myself, breaking the rules is systematically being systemic racism on its face and on the face of this Commission.

So please cancel the first future final vote until the work is actually done.

And please do not support the Promote the Vote maps if they address that prison gerrymandering thing, like the other speaker said. Because the other states changed their state laws to allow for that.

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

>> Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Thank you. Good morning.

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I'm Chris Andrews from Haslett.
I ask you to analyze individual elections to accurately assess the fairness of each map.
You're reliance on composite data for ten years may be a crucial mistake.
If it is, we face another ten years of flawed democracy.
For instance your analysis of Hickory projects a democratic majority but Next Vote looked at 2016 and 2020 separately and found a huge republican majority and a small republican majority.
This is easy to test.
I ask that your consultants analyze fairness separately for 2016, 2018 and 2020.
Here are the results of the individual districts as well.
Please read my comment W9304 for additional information.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next is Rich Thrush.
>> Hello, can you hear me?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.
>> Hi. Good morning. My name is Rich Thrush. I want to encourage the Commission not to select the Birch Congressional map.
It guarantees one party representation everywhere in West Michigan.
It disenfranchises the 210,000 minorities and almost one half million urban people population in the second largest Metropolitan area in Michigan.
The Grand Rapids six City area.
This map also splits up the three large West Michigan cities in separate districts.
Chestnut is the best map for Michigan overall and the Grand Rapids six City area in terms of minority and urban representation.
Chestnut provides a District with many commonalities in West Michigan such as center of higher education, industry and business, urban needs and issues and concentration of minorities.
Thanks for your diligent efforts to create fair District maps.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Joel Ombry.
>> Hi, my name is Joel Ombry from Grand Rapids.
I have comments on your maps on two levels.
First, at the Congressional level, I urge you to adopt the Chestnut map.
This map is a good choice because it does a good job of giving minority populations in West Michigan a voice in Washington.
It also combines Grand Rapids and Muskegon areas, which are already considered combined statistical areas.
Please reject the Birch map as it breaks up the lakeshore region and it's very poor from a partisan fairness perspective.
At the State House level, please approve the Hickory map.

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Sarah, number 7.

>> Hello, Commissioners. Thank you for the time today.

I live in Grand Rapids and want to speak today on the maps affecting us here in West Michigan.

For the State House I'm very concerned about the Szetela map.

It splits up the communities of interest across Kent County including Hispanic community in Grand Rapids and Wyoming and Suburban Townships on the east side of the state. And links Wyoming, the second largest in the Metro, with unrelated rural communities.

Support the Hickory state map and effective job of representing the comments I've heard from citizens in the count at public hearings and meetings and keeps Community of Interest here in West Michigan together.

For Congressional maps I strongly encourage you to support the Chestnut map. It's the most balanced and fair map in West Michigan and connects Grand Rapids and Muskegon who share similar issues, concerns and economic resources.

For Congressional maps, I'm particularly concerned about the Birch map and does not give a voice to the large minority population here in West Michigan and dilutes the voices of residents.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to citizens today on the desire for fair maps.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Rebecca Grayson.

>> Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yep.

>> Okay, this is Rebecca Grayson. I live in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Kent County.

The fair maps in my opinion in the Senate would be the Linden and Cherry maps, which are much better in terms of the partisan fairness than the Palm map, which is most unfair map in front of the Commission at this point.

Palm has a high republican bias and would create an unfair playing field.

But in the State House I support the Hickory map, that has the best partisan fairness scores of the three options in front of the Commission and the most majority for the Black American community.

Thank you so much for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 10, Diana Abouali.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Diana, you are unmuted and free to address the Commission.

>> I live in Dearborn with access and have Arab ancestry within the African MENA origins within the white racial category.

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 Grand Rapids area includes 492,000 people in the six City area.
This is a significant.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 38, Onida.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Numbers 38 and 39 are not currently present.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you.
We will move on to number 40, Joan Long.
>> Good afternoon. I'm Joan Long, a lifetime resident of the Metro Grand Rapids area.
I would like to respectfully submit the following comments regarding the proposed map.
Regarding Congressional map Chestnut, I approve of this map because of the strong partisan fairness of connecting Grand Rapids, Kentwood and Muskegon, which all have common -- which have strong communities of interest.
Regarding Congressional map Birch, however, I strongly disapprove of this map for several reasons.
Most importantly Metro Grand Rapids did not belong with the rural Counties of Ottawa and Ionia.
Regarding the State House map, Hickory, I approve of this map.
Because of its overall fairness.
But regarding State House map Szetela, I strongly disapprove of this map as one of the reasons being that Ada is a suburban Township and should be linked to the Metro Grand Rapids area.
Regarding state map Linden, I approve of this map because it puts Grand Rapids airport with the Metro.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 41, Joanne.
>> My name is Joanne Bird and I'm calling today from Park Township. I'm a Holland resident, a long time Michigan resident and lived here my whole life and active voter.
I believe in fairness above all things and find the Linden map in the Senate the most fair map.
The most unfair map in the Senate is the Palm map.
Oops, it says start my video. I guess I did not have the button. On Linden map in the Senate I find is the most fair map and most unfair map is the Palm map.
In the house the Hickory is the most fair and creates most majority minority seats. And I thank you for your work on the Commission.
And, like I say, I'm just all concerned that fairness and voting is for everybody in the State of Michigan.
Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you.
Number 43, Julie Dye.

← Next Previous →

Finish Strong, choose collaborative maps

Basic Info

Submitter: Tim King
Location: Livonia City
Submitted: 12/27/2021
Type: written
ID: w9626

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Commissioners, from the beginning of your work together as a Commission, I have been impressed with your commitment to working in a collaborative way to produce maps based on adherence to federal law and the constitutional criteria set forth in the amendment, and without regard to the interests of current office holders or political parties in general. From what I have observed, you have all have listened respectfully to fellow commissioners and the public, and have diligently sought to incorporate often contradicting testimony in your collaborative maps. I urge you to finish your work in a manner consistent with your efforts to date: vote for

collaborative maps! That will, no doubt, come down to voting for a second choice in some cases. Solid majority votes for collaborative maps will bolster the public's confidence in your work. I have looked at and studied some of the criteria used in assessing all of the proposed collaborative maps. The analyses of Michigan State University's IPPSR and comments others have left on this portal have influenced my personal preferences. I like Chestnut for the Congressional map as it seems to achieve the best marks on the metrics the IPPSR has measured. I like the Grand Rapids-Muskegon, Kalamazo-Battle Creek and Midland to Tri-Cities links. The border counties district is great and obviously a response to community input from that area. I like the Hispanic COI incorporated in the SW Detroit/downriver area. I would also give the nod to Linden for state senate districts and Hickory for the state house. I

really like the districts that hug lakeshores on the west and east sides and the efforts to create compromise district lines in the Midland area. Unpacking Detroit was a radical change in the status quo. I applaud you for persisting in creating new districts, especially in the Detroit metro area, that are compliant with the constitution's new criteria. I thank each of you for your dedicated service on this inaugural independent citizens redistricting commission!

← Next Previous →

Birch Map is a Mess for Muskegon

Basic Info

Submitter: Kelsey Bernadette
Location: Muskegon Heights
Submitted: 12/18/2021
Type: written
ID: w9456

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

I live in Muskegon and don't like the Birch map one bit. The lines around us make no sense at all with them zig zagging all around. Muskegon ends up in a district with central Michigan and we have nothing in common with that place. I want us to be in a district with Grand Rapids like in the Walnut plan please.

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

Target	Deviation	Total Population	NH White (Combo)	NH Black (Combo)	NH Native (Combo)	NH Asian (Combo)	NH Pac Islander (Combo)	NH Other (Combo)	Hispanic	Voting Age Population	VAP NH White (Combo)	VAP NH Black (Combo)	VAP NH Native (Combo)	VAP NH Asian (Combo)	VAP NH Pac Islander (Combo
0	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
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0	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
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0	Unassign	0	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	
1	District 1	775,179	196 (0.03%)	775,375	726,790 (93.73%)	11,385 (1.47%)	38,650 (4.98%)	7,251 (0.94%)	879 (0.11%)	9,957 (1.28%)	15,847 (2.04%)	633,080	597,460 (94.37%)	8,188 (1.29%)	2 (

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0	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
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	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
75,179	196 (0.03%)	775,375	726,790 (93.73%)	11,385 (1.47%)	38,650 (4.98%)	7,251 (0.94%)	879 (0.11%)	9,957 (1.28%)	15,847 (2.04%)	633,080	597,460 (94.37%)	8,188 (1.29%)	27,402 (4.33%)	5,147 (0.81%)	554 (0.09%)
75,179	182	774,997	710,889	21,627	19,937	7,352	659	10,625	36,060	606,868	560,657	16,019	14,526	4,965	418

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)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
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0	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
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0	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
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0	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
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0	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
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)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
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)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
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0	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
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0	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
775,179	196 (0.03%)	775,375	726,790 (93.73%)	11,385 (1.47%)	38,650 (4.98%)	7,251 (0.94%)	879 (0.11%)	9,957 (1.28%)	15,847 (2.04%)	633,080	597,460 (94.37%)	8,188 (1.29%)	27,402 (4.33%)	5,147 (0.81%)	554 (0.09%)
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