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VOLUME III
PART 1

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Unite Border Counties

Basic Info

Submitter: Jeff Yeutter
Location: Adrian
Submitted: 6/9/2021
Type: written
ID: w660

Tags

Comments & Feedback

6/29/2021 - **Carol Knolauch** (Riga Township): Please keep the border counties of Monroe, Lenawee, Hillsdale whole. We need representation that understands the uniqueness of border counties.

6/30/2021 - **Paul Palpant** (Adrian Township): Border counties to Indiana and Ohio have different challenges than the other counties of Michigan. Please consider keeping the border counties whole when finalizing the redistricting for the state house representative. The representative would better be able to undestand and help with these unique challenges.

7/1/2021 - **Roxann Holloway** (Lenawee): Roxann Holloway (Madison Township): With the many challenges that border counties experience, I am requesting that you keep Monroe, Lenawee, and Hillsdale Counties whole. This will allow the residents to be represented by someone who understands the specific needs of our counties.

Written Testimony

Honorable Commissioners,
As a resident of Lenawee County, a border county, and a Certified Public Accountant who deals with complex tax issues and business policies, as well as business regulations for my clients and myself, I am writing to ask that you leave our southern border counties united in the redistricting map—Monroe, Lenawee, Hillsdale, and possibly even Branch for bigger areas of representation.
Businesses in border counties are affected by tax and business policies established In Lansing and Washington D.C., which are different from non-border counties. When we've had a divided representation our representatives often don't really understand our issues or speak with our voice. They are often more divided in their focus and in their accountability to us. When we border counties/areas can be united, it has helped us have a stronger voice for our specific concerns. Our representatives have lived and experienced the special challenges that we face when we have to compete with Ohio and Indiana. Some recurring examples are when gas, cigarette, and alcohol taxes are raised. I see a big effect on my clients who are then at a major disadvantage with businesses in the states to the south of us.
Splintering our voice and our representation would discriminate against us, be less efficient, and be overall more costly and less productive.
Thank you for considering Monroe, Lenawee, Hillsdale, and possibly Branch in this manner.
Jeff Yeutter

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Border County Congressional District

Basic Info

Submitter: Paul Pirrone
Location: Temperance
Submitted: 6/9/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p624

Tags

#border counties #monroe #lenawee #bedford township #hillsdale #branch #st. joseph #cass #berrien

More Info

I am the Township Supervisor for Bedford Township. We are more similar to Toledo than we are to Detroit or Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti. To illustrate this point, here are some of the interests tying us more to our border than the vastly different communities to our north: shared infrastructure, unions, United Way, print and broadcast media, hospital (ProMedica), environmental concerns related to the River Raisin Watershed and Lake Erie, and our areas water is part of the Toledo system.
As a leader in a border community, we deal with issues daily related to the southern neighbors (property tax, income tax, sales tax, bottle deposit, shared fire protection) and these issues are not shared by the other 72 non-border counties. Only the UP counties bordering Wisconsin also share these concerns but based off of population in the UP, those counties will already have the same representation. That's why this southern border county area deserves to have

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representatives attentive to these unique issues.
It is my understanding that districts need to be around 775,000 so I included Jackson county as well. I included Jackson county because I understand they have multiple intergovernmental partnerships with Lenawee and Hillsdale counties, and have US 127 headed south into Ohio so their industries understand interstate commerce.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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Tom's Border/Agricu;ture District

Basic Info

Submitter: Tom H
Location: Monroe
Submitted: 7/13/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p1455

Tags

More Info

This district proposal groups the southern border counties and townships, particularly those with an emphasis on the agricultural industry. The border counties have significant synergy with the northern counties of Ohio and Indiana which are also heavily agriculture with the exception of the metro Toledo area. The southern boundary counties share in the River Raisin watershed and its environmental impact. The close proximity to the Maumee River watershed is also a key factor particularly as it empties into Lake Erie near the Michigan border. These counties share the needs of the farming communities that leads to common resource and political support.

Comments & Feedback

7/14/2021 - **Conner Wood** (Jackson): Jackson County is NOT predominantly agricultural (which this commenter from two counties away from Jackson might not know). According to the Department of Agriculture's 2017 farm census there were about 1,500 farm operations in Jackson County. Compare that with the Bureau of

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Labor Statistics data which shows 55,000 non-farm workers in Jackson County, including a disproportionately large manufacturing and healthcare workforce. There are of course heavily agricultural PARTS of Jackson County (especially the western portion), and much of the County's acreage is dedicated to agriculture, but Jackson County as a whole is not predominantly agricultural. Jackson County (by which I mean "most residents of Jackson County" and "the economy of Jackson County writ large") has much more in common with western Washtenaw or Ingham than it does with Hillsdale or Lenawee for example.

7/19/2021 - **Heather Hunnell** (Chelsea): As a former resident of Jackson County and a current resident of Western Washtenaw, I strongly agree with Connor Wood’s comments. Jackson and Western Washtenaw County do not share anything like the same scale of agriculture as Hillsdale and Lenawee. Per calculations using the USDA's 2017 farm census, those two counties have ~60-80% of their acreage farmed, compared to less than 40% in Jackson and Washtenaw. I have family connections to agriculture here in Michigan and in a couple of other states. Farmers clearly deserve consideration as a COI, but they represent a very small portion of our populations in Jackson and Washtenaw County. Per calculations using economic data from Sperling’s Best Places, only 1% of the population of Chelsea and its nearest surrounding Washtenaw County townships are employed in agriculture. Although agriculture played an important role in Chelsea's early history, the arrival of the railroad in 1850 shifted the focus to manufacturing and trade. Any visitor to the city would almost certainly note the standing remains of the city's manufacturing past (railroad depot, Glazier buildings, Federal * Works site) and see that manufacturing, retail, and healthcare are the main economic drivers now. Chelsea is bordered to its north and west by Pinckney and Waterloo State Recreation Areas. Combined, these two state

properties total 32,000 acres of wetlands, lakes, glacial moraines, and woods. These natural areas have been parks for roughly 80 years now and are the dominant feature of the landscape in this corner of Washtenaw County. The Wikipedia articles on Waterloo State Recreation Area, Pinckney State Recreation Area, and the Waterloo Farm Museum rely mainly on source materials from the Michigan DNR and are a good place to learn more about the creation and history of these parks. Due to the location of these natural areas, farmland is more heavily concentrated south of I-94. If a portion of Western Washtenaw is going to be included in a district being drawn for the specific purpose of advocating for agricultural interests, then I would recommend that I-94 in Sylvan and Lima Township constitute the northernmost border to be considered for such a district. #washtenaw #jackson #chelsea

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MI Border

Basic Info

Submitter: Jeff
Location: Adrian Township
Submitted: 7/28/2021
Type: coi
ID: c1792

Tags

#border #lenawee #monroe #hillsdale #branch

More Info

Honorable Commissioners,
As a resident of Lenawee County, a border county, and a Certified Public Accountant who deals with complex tax issues and business policies, as well as business regulations for my clients and myself, I am writing to ask that you leave our southern border counties united in the redistricting map—Monroe, Lenawee, Hillsdale, and possibly even Branch for bigger areas of representation.
Businesses in border counties are affected by tax and business policies established In Lansing and Washington D.C., which are different from non-border counties. When we've had a divided representation our representatives often don't really understand our issues or speak with our voice. They are often more divided in their focus and in their accountability to us. When we border counties/areas can be united, it has helped us have a stronger voice for our specific concerns. Our representatives have lived and experienced the special challenges that we face when we have to compete with Ohio and Indiana. Some recurring examples are when gas,

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cigarette, and alcohol taxes are raised. I see a big effect on my clients who are then at a major disadvantage with businesses in the states to the south of us.
Splintering our voice and our representation would discriminate against us, be less efficient, and be overall more costly and less productive.
Thank you for considering Monroe, Lenawee, Hillsdale, and possibly Branch in this manner.
Jeff Y

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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Border Counties

Basic Info

Submitter: Amy H
Location: Tecumseh Township
Submitted: 8/7/2021
Type: coi
ID: c2044

Tags

#bordercounties #border #rural #agriculture #lenaweemonroe

More Info

This is a rural community of interest. While it is not large enough to be a congressional district, I think it represents a community that should be united in representation due to its mostly rural lifestyle. If this should be used to make a congressional seat, it should not pick up any urban areas, as this would dilute the rural voice represented here. Border counties should be kept together and remain rural, not urban.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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Suburban Lifestyle vs Border Counties

Basic Info

Submitter: Steven
Location: Ypsilanti Township
Submitted: 8/11/2021
Type: coi
ID: c2321

Tags

#bordercounties #urban #rural

More Info

As someone who grew up and raised a family in rural Michigan, and now living in urban Michigan, I can say firsthand that these are two distinctively different communities, and therefore should not be stuck together in representation. They have different values, lifestyles, family structures, etc. They have different income levels, paces of life, and economies. Any attempt to combine these two communities are absolutely partisan in nature and I would strongly oppose these movements.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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Beer

Basic Info

Submitter: Matthew
Location: Hillsdale County
Submitted: 8/12/2021
Type: coi
ID: c2383

Tags

#border counties #border #beer

More Info

As a lifelong resident of a border county I know how often I make runs into Ohio and Indiana for groceries and cold beer, and I know many others who do the same. In border counties we are always competing with Ohio and Indiana for the price of goods and services as well as labor. I have many friends who drive south to work out of state, do a majority of their shopping, attend parks, and attend church. This lifestyle is unique to border counties.

Comments & Feedback

8/15/2021 - **Jeff** (Jackson City): This comment is REAL people! I live in Jackson and even I will drive into Indiana and Ohio to save on large purchases.

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My South Michigan Map

Basic Info

Submitter: Tammy T
Location: Hillsdale
Submitted: 8/12/2021
Type: coi
ID: c2380

Tags

#jackson #lenawee #hillsdale #calhoun #st joe #cass #berrien #branch #van buren #allegan #kalamazoo

More Info

I was born and raised in South MI and also believe that county lines are a good basis for communities of interest in Michigan. These four communities each share interests and cooperate within themselves in many ways such as government, economy, and tourism. They are also uniquely different from one another due to where they sit on a map. These communities would be a good base for our maps in Michigan.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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Border Districts

Basic Info

Submitter: Aaron
Location: Sturgis
Submitted: 8/13/2021
Type: coi
ID: c2403

Tags

More Info

Districts that border Indiana ought to be kept together based on having similar problems and people groups.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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West Michigan Map

Basic Info

Submitter: Mary
Location: Muskegon
Submitted: 8/13/2021
Type: coi
ID: c2410

Tags

#muskegon #allegan #van buren #berrien #cass

More Info

Muskegon-Oceana-Newaygo: Muskegon based district with nearby counties. Good mix of urban and rural. Close proximity so easy for a Senator to represent and visit all areas of the district in-person.
Allegan-Van Buren: Rural communities along the shoreline, with heavy agriculture, tourism and manufacturing economic engines. Overlapping broadband and government services.
Berrien-Cass-St. Joseph: Border counties with similar economic and cultural interests. Multiple community colleges and similar rural area with small towns.
Kalamazoo County: Geographically tight district with similar cultural, social and economic challenges and issues.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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Redistricting effort

Basic Info

Submitter: Lorrie
Location: Benton Harbor/Berrien
Submitted: 8/14/2021
Type: written
ID: w2422

Tags

#berrien

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Key connections between Berrien, Cass, and St. Joseph Counties:
Berrien, Cass, and St. Joseph Counties are border counties, so they are facing the same challenges of living on the border of Indiana, particularly competing economically with our neighboring state.
Small community colleges are focused in and serving Berrien, Cass, and St. Joseph Counties. Southwestern Community College (Cass and Berrien), Lake Michigan College (Berrien) and Glen Oaks Community College (St. Joseph).
Same TV market (Berrien and Cass in South Bend market).
The high school athletic conference is literally called the Berrien-Cass-St. Joseph League, based on the three southwestern border counties.
Berrien, Cass and St. Joseph counties are similar economically, rural with small towns, agriculture heavy, and connected with various organizations:
The Cass-St. Joseph Youth Opportunity Initiative, which is a partnership between a non-profit and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The youth initiative brings together public and private resources to help young people transitioning from foster care to adulthood.
Cass-St. Joseph Counties Rural Letter Carriers Association.
When the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services hires a Children's Services Specialist, that individual covers Cass and St. Joseph.
Berrien, Cass and St. Joseph county school districts dramatically overlap: Constantine Schools covers many Cass and St. Joseph families.

Niles Schools covers many Berrien and Cass families.

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State Senate 21st District

Basic Info

Submitter: Alton
Location: Berrien County
Submitted: 8/15/2021
Type: plan
State Senate Districts
ID: p2433

Tags

More Info

Berrien, Cass, and St. Joseph counties have many community connections, all are border counties to Indiana, they all face similar challenges in terms of economic development and workforce. They all have small community colleges that serve their areas and the counties are intermingled in community college districts. They all are in the South Bend ADI for media markets, and the high school conference is the Berrien-Cass-St. Joseph League, based on the three border counties.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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Border county news

Basic Info

Submitter: Susan
Location: Lenawee
Submitted: 8/17/2021
Type: coi
ID: c2493

Tags

More Info

Living in border counties many don't realize how much rely on newspaper and stations for our local news. I've provided more specifics on my map.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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Communities of Southern and Lakeside MI

Basic Info

Submitter: Franklin
Location: Algansee Township
Submitted: 8/20/2021
Type: coi
ID: c2635

Tags

More Info

I was born and raised in Southern Michigan. The people of this rural and agrarian region value small, close-knit communities. The communities near the border of Michigan are distinct in terms of culture, economics, and values from other small communities through the state, as are the lakeside communities where my wife and I enjoy vacationing.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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Communities top priority

Basic Info

Submitter: Anthony
Location: Monroe
Submitted: 8/30/2021
Type: coi
ID: c3240

Tags

#cois

More Info

Communities of interest are a top priority to not just me, but also the voters of Michigan who approved this commission. Communities are more important according to the Constitution than other measures pushed by political consultants and even other measures like compactness. We don't want lines splitting us up. We've had politicians do this for years, we don't want random splits. I understand these files can be overlayed onto a map and would consider you do this to follow the Constitution. To me, my community is rural, focused on agriculture, and has similar hobbies when it comes to recreational activities like hunting.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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Monroe is a Border County

Basic Info

Submitter: Michele P.
Location: Monroe County
Submitted: 8/30/2021
Type: coi
ID: c3225

Tags

More Info

Monroe County is much more tied together with other border counties than it is alike the large cities to the North like Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Ypsilanti. Economically, our focus is on farming and have great deals of interstate commerce due to the border. Just like Lenawee County, and the counties to the west, we have many cross-state commuters and our communities often tie us to individuals living in Ohio or Indiana (in fact, 2/3 of Monroe County head south every weekend to enjoy better food options!) The state border doesn't define our community. With the recent census data, the similarities between border counties was reinforced by population trends across the border counties which was a stark difference between the more urban areas to the north. This reflects the economic realities of our region.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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Public Safety Cross State Cooperation

Basic Info

Submitter: Victor Fitz
Location: Cassopolis
Submitted: 9/2/2021
Type: coi
ID: c3566

Tags

More Info

As Cass County Prosecutor I deal with many cases involving Indiana and Michigan cross county and State boarders. It is important we keep boarder counties together as well as the cooperation between Berrien, Cass, and St. joseph counties polices forces when we tri and prosecute individuals who many cross State and County lines.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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Business and competition with Indiana

Basic Info

Submitter: Charles Heit
Location: New Buffalo Township
Submitted: 9/2/2021
Type: coi
ID: c3560

Tags

More Info

Berrien, Cass and St Joseph Counties all share a common border with Indiana and share similar interests such as tourism and business. Many of the individuals who live in Berrien, Cass and St. Joseph also work in Indiana and vise versa. Keeping the economic districts together is a must! Especially for competition for small business to unit against Indiana. Keep small business in Michigan and give them a unified voice.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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I talked it up during the campaign.
But my main motivating force, and I think that of many of the people I volunteered with, was to have our representatives reflect the overall aggregate vote across the state.
So that a party that got a clear majority of the votes statewide has a majority, say, in Lansing and representing us in Washington.
That would be success.
Another different point is your next two public meetings fall right in the Jewish high Holy days, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I really hope the next scheduled events you will show more respects, check the calendar for the significant holidays for the various religions.
Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Number 12.
Sorry, I skipped number, so number 13.
I didn't have number 11, that's right. Go ahead.
>> Thank you, Commissioners, for the job you're doing and the job that you have ahead of you.
My name is Mike H.
I'm a resident of Monroe County. And one of the questions that was proposed to me when I came in by one of the Commissioners was could I help you guys distinguish what was Monroe County, whether it was a rural or suburban commuter community.
As a lifelong resident of Monroe, I certainly believe we are a suburban community.
I don't know the exact numbers, but I believe over 20% of Monroe County resident work in Wayne County and almost, just under 20% work in Ohio, in the Toledo area. With only 1% working in the Lenawee County area.
So, I do believe we have much more in county with the Wayne County, Down River Area and hope you take that into consideration.
Also, to keep the I-75 and 23 corridors separate.
The I-75 corridor definitely is more of the suburban manufacturing community whereas the 23 would be somewhat more the rural community.
Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Number 14.
>> Good afternoon, Commissioners.
I like the rest of the speakers want to thank you for taking on this historical opportunity.
My name is Dan Mitten, I'm born and raised in Monroe County.
And I rise here today to talk about the community of interest also.
I have seen a lot of comments made on rural Monroe County.
It does have areas that are rural.
However, it is heavy industrial.

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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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Another gentleman mentioned the Tri-County planning Commission.
Another lady mentioned how the local NASCAR track impacts the economy of Jackson, Hillsdale and Lenawee.
I also heard a very compelling community of interest shared from the Chair of the River Raisin watershed. And the unique differences that the rural watershed faces compared to the more urban watershed. He stated this watershed comprises the three counties I mentioned, Jackson, Hillsdale and Lenawee. But he also pointed to Monroe and the rural western parts of Washtenaw as well as part of Northern Ohio.
As the third ranked criteria in the Constitution, please use these communities of interest that you heard.
And that were submitted in writing to help guide your work.
Thank you for your time.
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Next in line, and I apologize if I miss pronounce your name, Aisha-Zanib.
>> Hello, Commissioners. Good morning. So my name is Aisha-Zanib. I'm a board of director with API vote Michigan. I'm from Oakland County here in Michigan.
This is probably not the first time that you're hearing this, but I believe it's really important that you are.
I believe it's really important that the Commissioners adjust their plan to spend more time mapping the Detroit Metro Area.
As you probably already have seen there is a significant number of maps and submissions from this area.
It's important that you, like, we don't just overlook the hard work of our communities putting this together, just as one of the panelists mentioned that she had.
Detroit Metro is, the Detroit Metro area is one of the most populous areas in the state with about 40% of the State's population living here.
I understand that yesterday we changed the number of days from one to three, but giving yourself three days to draw House Districts is just not enough especially now that we are including Saginaw and Flint within the Detroit Metro Area.
I'm worried that you're not going to give an equitable amount of time to this area.
And I'm urging you please reconsider spending more time mapping out the Detroit Metro area.
So that it takes into account all the intricacies that exist and that it's -- it is in favor of the people.
Thank you for letting me speak today and I appreciate your time.
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Next in line to address the Commission is Horsh-Smit.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: For the purposes of the public record, that participant and the following participant number eight is not present in the meeting.
>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much.

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The community commonly referred to Down River has been described I believe that there was talk today about how it should be divided up.
So I'm sure that you're well aware with the 15 or 20 individual cities that are contained in that area of Down River.
Geographic proximity as well as the history of the community and support and shared interests and concerns make us a community of interest.
We dine work and travel between our local communities on a daily basis.
We live on gross Isle and own a business in Lincoln Park and we dine frequently in many of the Down River communities.
I appreciate any efforts to keep Down River together as a community of interest.
There was talk yesterday of including Monroe, Monroe is 20 minutes south of us and nothing in common with Down River frankly.
Other than a drive.
They have a big farming industry down there and they are really don't we don't share a lot of the same interests or community concerns.
Thank you very much for your time.
>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much for taking the time to address the Commission.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Next in line is Oscar Renautt.
Please allow us a moment to unmute you.
Renautt.
>> Hello, good afternoon. Can you hear me.
>> CHAIR KELLOM: We can hear you.
>> Help how I would like to thank the Commission in their efforts in taking the redistricting in our state.
My name is Oscar Renautt and I've been a resident of Oakland County for over 22 years currently residing in oak park I'm the founder and president of unity found of Michigan which is bipartisan organization with efforts to aid local and statewide LGBTQ candidates to get elected to public offices.
As a side note with approximately 5-6% of population LBGTQ has 0.0 positions nationwide making our community one of the least represented in politics.
Southeast Oakland County without a doubt is an LGBT community of interest as it holds the largest number of LGBT residents in our state.
It's home for many openly LBGTQ officials in Southfield and Ferndale and Hazel park and hunting ton Woods.
Many cities in this area are governed by LGBTQ and elected officials creating a sanctuary for our community by introducing LGBTQ residence and ordinances and it's home for many LBGTQ business owners with the LBGTQ customer base and also the area is home for many LGBTQ community organizations that provide vital resources for our community statewide including youth and seniors.

← Next Previous →

Border counties are unique

Basic Info

Submitter: Kenneth S
Location: Lenawee
Submitted: 9/9/2021
Type: coi
ID: c4229

Tags

More Info

I live and work in a border county and I know everyday I lose business to Ohio and Indiana, but also gain customers from those states. It is a unique situation that other parts of the state do not have to deal with.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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

View in Districtr

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

← Next Previous →

Ohio-Indiana Border

Basic Info

Submitter: Svetlana
Location: Coldwater City
Submitted: 9/10/2021
Type: coi
ID: c4389

Tags

More Info

I live in Branch County and wanted to share how my community interacts with the Ohio and Indiana border. Interstate travel for work, entertainment, and leisure is a daily occurrence. From Lenawee to St. Joseph, we often cross the border in both states and our communities really cross the border.

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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Thank you very much.

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

That concludes our last in person public comment so we will move to our remote public commentary.

Individuals who would like to provide live remote commentary to the Commission will be
allowed to do so. I will call your name and our staff will unmute you. If you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak. If you are on the phone a voice will say you can speak and
prompt you to press star six to unmute.

I will call on you by your name.

Also please note that if you experience technical or audio issues or we do not hear from you for 3-5 seconds, we will move to the next person in line
and then return to you after they are done speaking. If your audio still does not work, you can email redistricting@Michigan.gov we will help you troubleshoot so that you can participate during the next public comment period at a later hearing or meeting.

You will have two minutes to address the Commission. And
please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer. The first in line to provide public comment is Sing.

Please allow our staff to unmute you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: For the purposes of the public record that participant is not present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay we will move on to Doug Campbell.

>> Thank you for allowing me time to address the Commission.

I'd like to bring to the Commission's attention the all too often overlooked border county community.

Counties along the Ohio and Indiana borders share similarities that no other counties can relate to to the state boundaries.

Many residents on both sides of the state commute across the state line twice a day for work.

We deal with tax disparities unique to the daily life of our border county residents.

Recreation and leaser in this community is not restricted by the state boundary.

As many people shop, dine and enjoy outdoor areas in each state.

Most residents cross this line without a second thought because our community stretches across the state boundary.

Additionally across the southern border of Michigan individual counties often share resources, state police posts, union regions, hospital systems health departments environmental concerns infrastructure projects, broadcast media, print media and much more.

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These counties also share economic interests relying heavily on agricultural unlike larger cities of the north of these counties.
Far too long a light communities have been divided for political reasons and I'm optimistic that you will decide to end this.
Finally and most extraordinarily in this time of hyper partisanship both republicans and democrats have given testimony supporting these border counties.
Communities.
For the most part I have been impressed with each of the Commissioners ability to put away party loyalty and work on behalf of communities.
I thank the border may be the most common sense decision for the Commission to make.
While I know the Commission has many difficult decisions ahead, I ask the Commission to forget about border counties and bipartisan support for the communities received.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Next is John Calhoun.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Our first participant has now joined the meeting if you would like to return to them.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay let's return to sing.
>> Hello, can you hear me?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.
>> Hello hi good morning to all of you this is Mr. Sing.
I sat on the board of API vote Michigan and been to a couple of events in person.
It's important and difficult task.
Commissioners I'm requesting like many others that have come before me that you consider expanding your current mapping schedules.
Vice Chair Rebecca urged the Commission to consider expanding the current schedules to include Fridays and Saturdays.
We are still waiting for your response.
We understand your concerns.
And to make it clear last Thursday that mapping Metro Detroit, Flint and Saginaw needs more time than one day.
How do you plan to complete this work to accommodate the communities of interest for 40% of state's published, please? I understand this is hard work and that your time but as the public watches and sees we notice that you're not on schedule.
Please explain how you expect to redraw the maps you have already drafted to consider all the area and continue to map Metro Detroit and the current counties.
Thank you.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

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And just to point out with the prior speaker that my prediction is the way you're going to get this done is you already got it done.
You already got it done. And this is a self-imposed deadline so that you can say oh, look we didn't violate nothing.
You have to give the people the right to have informed consent for these votings.
And interesting, I believe that Commissioner Lett comments yesterday were disingenuous at best when he said there is a semblance of order here. Because yesterday as he then continued on to say well, hey, how are we going to vote here today? So you make it up different every meeting, that is what you folks are wanting to do. Just like the Netherlands do in the polar model.
And so what you did yesterday was you amended the rules of procedure in direct violation of the rules of procedure. Section 14.2 under amendments it says any amendment to the rules of procedures can be three days' notice. Add it to the agenda provided to the members three days before the meeting.
You didn't do that. Did it on the fly.
And then you just changed it again in the middle of the voting. That is what is wrong about this. And in Section 9 of voting the amended quorum rules in Section 11 is what? A quorum is you have to keep your statements germane to the meeting of the pending question. And now you got to remember this part, too, the Vice Chair, the part about facilitates discussion while it's under consideration.
So it's not under consideration until there is a motion seconding. So Commissioner Szetela of the attorney, in my personal opinion, is willfully and maliciously violating these rules of procedure and assigning the floor when there is no motion second pending.
It's very clear.
And now you've got the postings. You posted yesterday for this meeting.
You are trying to use the 18-hour rule. I got an e-mail back from Pastula. And she said that going by the 18-hour rule. Going by the law. Well, I just got off the phone of the clerk of the house of representatives which you are supposed to be posting at his office. And they are looking into it now. And they are going to give, he says, a written answer. You won't answer nothing. You folks just want to go to Court, don't you? And you will get it cleared in Court by somebody losing.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commissioner, Mr. Galant.
All right. Next in line is Anthony Skenell.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not currently present.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Next is supervisor I believe it's Parone.
>> Can you hear me?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, sir.
>> I'm the Township supervisor for Bedford and Monroe County.

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I can tell you we are more similar to Toledo than we are to Detroit Down River, Ann Arbor Ypsilanti.
Taylor at this point here, some of the interest, time is more to the border than the vastly different communities to the north. Shared infrastructure, unions, United Way, print, broadcast media.
For medical hospital systems, environmental concerns related to the Raisin Water. Watershed, Like Eerie. And our areas of municipal water, we are all part of the Toledo system.
As a leader in a border community, we deal with issues daily related to southern neighbors, property tax and income tax and sales tax and bottle deposit and shared fired protection are an example of some.
These issues are not shared by the 72 non-border counties, only the UP bordering Wisconsin also share these concerns. But based off the population in the UP, those counties will already have the same representation.
That's why the southern border County at areas deserves to have representatives attentive to the unique issues faced by border counties.
It's my understanding that districts need to be around 775,000.
So I included Jackson County as well.
I included Jackson County because I know they have multiple inter-governmental partnerships for Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties and have substantial industry that relies on other Interstate commerce and Ohio.
It's extremely important that we have local representation. And, you know, they are so involved.
I know our representative is at board meetings.
Is at events.
Is very tentative to all of our needs and gets extremely involved.
And so that is why I'm submitting what I have today, so thank you for your time.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
Next in line is Jeffrey White.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: For the purposes of the public record that participant as well as the next two participants number nine and ten are not currently present.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Nine and ten are not present. Okay, so we are going to move on to Robert Dindoffer.
>> Hello, can you hear me.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, sir.
>> Thanks hi.
So yesterday I'm from the Lake St. Clair community of interest.
And yesterday I was absolutely elated when you all decided initially or were working on reflecting it in a State Senate District.
And I guess when they decided to break it up.

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Fix Southwest Michigan

Basic Info

Submitter: Steve
Location: Coloma Charter Township
Submitted: 9/15/2021
Type: written
ID: w4598

Tags

#berrien #cass #st. joseph

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

The way the current Senate maps are drawn do not reflect the people and values of Southwest Michigan. Please read these public comments and keep our border communities together (Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph.) We share the same values, we share the same media market (Indiana) and we work together in terms of jobs and economic development. Our proximity to the border has created a natural community. Please don't fracture it.

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Hometown Area Suggestions

Basic Info

Submitter: Hannah
Location: Ypsilanti City
Submitted: 9/16/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p4660

Tags

More Info

As someone who has lived in what you would describe as the border county community of interest as well as Washtenaw county, I feel as though I can offer the commission a unique perspective. Life is distinctly different in these two unique areas. Growing up on the border to another state, it was a common occurrence to cross into Indiana or Ohio for a shopping trip, to go see a friend for dinner, or go to a sporting event. Many of our neighbors crossed state lines for cheaper goods, or people came to MI for our goods. There was also a strong agricultural sense of community in our many small towns. Bring your tractor to school day is a common occurrence in the border counties. I can assure you it is not in Ann Arbor-Ypsi. Additionally, I can share the urban lifestyle that much of Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti and the Plymouth-canton area offer compared to the border counties. Many of my friends and I will trade to Plymouth or Canton for recreational sports, go out to eat at one of the many restaurants in the area, or shop in the different malls. Washtenaw has the highest percentage of Asian population in the state, so they

Map

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

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should be grouped with other densely populated Asian areas such as Plymouth-Canton. There are many people who live and work in these interconnected communities, and who choose to live there because of the opportunities that are afforded to you if you live in these areas. There are also high quality higher education institutions that deserve representatives focused on these issues that are fundamentally different than those in rural MI.
As Commissioners MC and Szetela pointed out today, these are distinct communities which are nothing like Jackson/Calhoun and the other border counties. I would urge the commission to use these two districts when you begin mapping the congressional maps, and ask that these distinct communities not be combined or split apart. Thank you.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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Communities of Color in Western Michigan

Basic Info

Submitter: Michael Lessig
Location: Benton Harbor City
Submitted: 9/20/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p5115

Tags

More Info

I took about five minutes to edit commissioner Eid's map to draw compact western districts that avoid diluting communities of color in Western Michigan. As you can see, these districts are very compact and in fact score *better* than the commissions current districts on measures of compactness (i.e. REOCK score). They also both have larger minority populations than the commission's current maps. Beyond that, this map also has the added benefit of including Barry county in the heavily rural district 2, which is probably a much better fit for it. And this map keeps the entire southern border together, which has also been a priority for some commenters. Please revisit the Western Michigan districts tomorrow. Also don't be afraid of shifting some of the other districts around a bit to make new districts work. That's part of the commission's problem right now is that you seem to only want to adjust one or two districts at a time, but often good reconfiguration require reasonable shifts elsewhere especially when you only have 13 districts. For instance, when I adjusted this map, the southern 7th district

Map

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expanded to take some of district 6, while the Lansing based district lost some population from Ionia. To fix this imbalance I made a few adjustments in metro Detroit, which didn't radically change much but did allow for population parity.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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US-12 Corridor in Border Counties

Basic Info

Submitter: Chad
Location: Lenawee
Submitted: 9/28/2021
Type: coi
ID: c5591

Tags

#bordercounties #us12

More Info

According to the MICRC, Communities of Interest may include "populations that share cultural or historical characteristics or economic interests." Therefore I would like to share the cultural and historic backbone of the border counties.
In 1825, the United States government appropriated money for the second ever federal highway, which was laid out along an ancient Indian trail. Paleontologists from the University of Michigan have excavated portions of the longest mastodon trailway ever found, suggesting that game animals were using the same corridor over 10,000 years ago, long before the Native Americans or modern-day travelers used this trail. Ancient burial and encampment sites have even been identified along the highway.
According to the US 12 Heritage Trail Organization, during the early development along the highway, a settlement pattern emerged of small towns surrounded by fields and open land. The historic rhythm of this pattern remains very much in evidence today. Spaced at about fifteen mile intervals, small towns like Saline, Clinton,

Map

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

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Jonesville, Allen, Quincy, Bronson, Sturgis, White Pigeon, and Niles lined up facing the highway that was responsible for their existence.
The corridor remains active, serving as a regional connector for the corridor's evolving land uses.
Annually, in mid-August, Route 12 comes together to host one of Michigan's most unique cultural events, Michigan’s Longest Garage Sale.
Long before our time, and likely long after history forgets us all, this corridor will continue to be in use.
When searching for the economic, historic, and cultural ties, US 12 checks all the boxes and is a true community of interest.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next is 17 Abraham.

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

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you, Secretary of State.

Number 18, Jill Adams.

>> Hi, can you see me?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: We can.

>> Okay. First, I'd like to thank all the Commissioners for what I assume has been endless hours on this very large task.

My name again is Jill Adams. I live in Lenawee County. And I know that the people here or in the area down in southern Michigan are very pleased with the Congressional map you've drawn to include the border Counties that are along the Ohio border, and also including Jackson and Calhoun Counties.

Those of us near the border face very unique challenges in the state.

I know that you've received comments from both sides and knowing that you used feedback from both sides is greatly appreciated.

I know I don't speak for everybody on this panel this morning, but I think you have done a great job.

Trying to make all the communities equal 50/50 is never going to happen.

I think it's most important to keep the Counties.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. And our final speaker today is number 19, Chris Andrews.

>> Can you hear me now.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: We can.

>> Okay. Hi. I'm Chris Andrews from Haslett.

Please don't settle for less unfair maps.

Right now your Senate plan is 100 yard dash or one party start five steps ahead.

Your consultant inadvertently created a false picture yesterday when he agreed that there was a democratic advantage on some of the metrics.

Don't let that color your view.

Every single metric provides a disproportionate bias towards republicans.

Your Voting Rights Act work did not move us towards fairness.

Some of the discussion yesterday seemed to suggest that a 50/50 seat outcome was amazing.

It is not amazing when it takes 52.3% democratic vote to achieve it.

In a close election republicans will probably control the Senate with your map even though even when most voters vote democratic.

The party with the most votes should win the majority.

Otherwise it under mines the will of the people.

Thank you.

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It moves Delta Township and Lansing portion of the Eaton County back into the Eaton County District.
It also divides Ingham County north and south along Grand River avenue.
The house map needs major changes to create fair districts, voters want and the Constitution requires.
I strongly believe that the party with the most votes should win the most seats.
Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have numbers 51, 54 or 55 by any chance?

>> Good afternoons thank you for providing the opportunity for public comment.
My name is Gerid and reside in Cass County a rural County in Southwest Michigan my family founded and based a home supply company here over 50 years ago.
As I'm nearing the end of my bachelor's degree here in Lansing, I'm preparing for a leadership role managing window sales in the company.
Our small business has expanded to 7 stores based in Cass Berrien and St. Joseph counties.
In Indiana this area is widely known by local as Michiana and there are issues we face bordering another state.
The businesses have figured out viable solution to the complex Commissioner issues but a split Senate District risks adequate representation.
The proposed redistricting map splits our small business into two Senate districts.
Creating hurdles and damaging solutions that we have made to ensure our business is successful.
Please keep Michiana intact to ensure our small business is represented.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 59, 60, 61 and 62 and 59 when you reach the microphone, please feel free to speak.

>> Good evening my name is Dale Branch president NAACP.
I'm here to talk about two issues the first is the house seats.
We feel that the portion of Lansing that is cut out and put in with Delta is not a good move.
We feel that that is a bit of gerrymandering and also reduces the effectiveness of people primarily Black indigenous people of color to have an opportunity to be represented.
Likewise we feel the same way concerning your Senate seats.
The fact that north end of town is cut out and placed in with the rural area.
We see no reason for that.
We feel that the current seating structure we have is best for that.
We ask that you would consider relooking at these maps and take these things in consideration, people of color, and they're about to be represented.
And elected.

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My name is Kelsey and I am calling in remotely from Lansing Michigan.
The capitol.
And just a couple points here one is I'm so thankful that we have a hybrid option.
As a person who is disabled, I really appreciate that.
And I would encourage you to keep doing this.
On that same note I think it's really important for the funding that we do allow more disabled inclusivity.
So it's super important.
I also was really encouraged by the indigenous representation we have tonight so to encourage that.
I would just say which has been echoed many times tonight we can't fix gerrymandering and we need to have clean lines as to where the districts are.
And like transparency around that.
But yeah, we need more transparency.
You cannot fix gerrymandering, gerrymandering like it just becomes this cycle so I would encourage as much transparency as much as possible for those written comments to be readout loud as well as trusting some of the organizations that have proposed other maps, other progressed organizations like the ACLU so I hope you have a good night.
And if you come to protest in Lansing I will join you, thanks.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thanks.
Thank you for addressing the Commission. Vadette.
>> Hi yes this is Vadette can you hear me.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.
>> Okay thank you very much.
Okay, thank you for this opportunity to speak with you.
First and Foremost I was made aware that there wasn't a representative from the west side of Michigan.
And from hearing the past calls I'm sure you're now well aware of this.
For the redistricting.
Even though we are all Michiganders our State of Michigan offers uniqueness in every corner of the state.
But I do want to share that Berrien Cass and St. Joseph County has always been represented as Michiana County our public news source comes from South Bend Indiana.
So we cannot majority of the people who watch TV get their news is mostly from the South Bend, Mishawaka in all three of the Counties.
After reviewing the various versions of redistricting I noticed Berrien County would be split and Cass and St. Joseph County would be removed.

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Border Counties Are Stronger Together

Basic Info

Submitter: Chuck M
Location: Lenawee
Submitted: 10/26/2021
Type: written
ID: w7359

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

As a resident of a border county, I was happy to hear countless commenters from other border counties express their desire to be united in representation with other border counties. Members of the Michiana region share much in common with those of us along the Ohio border. They get Indiana news, we get Ohio news. I believe half of Cass County works across the border. Much of other populations do the same, especially in Toledo and South Bend.
We are united along the Route 12 Corridor and are made up of many small rural communities that are linked and united in healthcare needs, agricultural interests, watersheds, government agency regions, and many more charitable organizations partnering together.
We need a representative who understands this unique lifestyle.
You have a chance to listen to our voices and correct a wrong by uniting us, and increasing our voice in government so we can improve life along the border. We are stronger together.

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Eid Senate map does SW Michigan proper!

Basic Info

Submitter: Joshua P
Location: Paw Paw Township
Submitted: 10/28/2021
Type: written
ID: w7889

Tags

#kalamazoo #battle creek city #lake michigan #allegan #van buren #michiana

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

I cannot speak to the rest of Michigan, but Commissioner Eid's Senate map does a good job of reflecting the COIs in Southwest Michigan. It keeps "Michiana" (Berrien, Cass, St. Joe) whole, it creates a lakeshore COI district with many lakeshore communities, it maintains the rural, agricultural COI in the area of Allegan, Van Buren, and Barry counties, and it protects the urban interests of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo. I would encourage the MICRC to consider Commissioner Eid's suggested Senate districts for Southwest Michigan

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Michiana and the border

Basic Info

Submitter: Tom Matthew
Location: Kinderhook Township
Submitted: 10/28/2021
Type: written
ID: w7957

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Thank you for allowing public feedback. I live in Branch County, just north of the Indiana state line, the region is often called Michiana. This region is a part of the greater border county community. Unlike many areas to our north, our region and community reaches across state lines. This has real life consequences on policies and our day today life. I like the draft maps and think you have kept us in mind.
Respectfully yours,
Tom Matthew

Cluster C32 – Southern Border Counties

Rural identity. Shared concerns about interstate commerce across with Ohio and Indiana. Agricultural industries, shared health care services, and recreation opportunities. Edges into the Allegan/Van Buren County area, identified as rural lakeshore communities. (See Cluster C16.)

Portal Link	Overall Submission Information	Individual Area Information
c1645-1	**Congressional District 6 Map.** *No description provided.*	**Congressional District 6.** A congressional district that includes the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek communities.
c1779-1	**Western Michigan Communities of Interest.** I think this is the best representation of communities of interest in Western Michigan	**Community 1.** *No description provided.*

Portal Link	Overall Submission Information	Individual Area Information
c1793-3	**Fair/Compact Map - Border County .** *No description provided.*	**Community Collaboratives between border counties.** My name is Juliana Moore, and I live in Adrian Township in Lenawee County. My Community of interest links counties related by healthcare, including Monroe and Lenawee as well as Branch County with the common denominator of ProMedica Healthcare Systems. I have extended the community of interest by including border counties that have a unique interest as states dealing with interstate economic issues. As a member of Lenawee Health Network, another important link that border counties have is common is the influx of citizens of Ohio, crossing the border for Marijuana. The LHN group is concerned about the health of people in the county, and the struggles that people have with drug dependency, something that these other counties will battle as well. As well, many industries cross over, and areas like Lenawee and Monroe have more in common with an area like Toledo, Ohio, than they may have with Detroit, Ann Arbor or Ypsilanti. It is important to have representation that is able to recognize the unique battle that these border counties encounter. The other districts were modeled after other maps I have seen in the portal and include two Voting Rights districts. The districts are compact and fairly competitive, but overall, the border county district makes the most sense to me and my map was built off of this district.
c1943-2	**Three Southwest MI Communities.** Much of rural Michigan is similar, though in order to keep districts compact and contiguous it will need to be broken up. Allegan + Van Buren Counties + surrounding rural areas and small towns make a lot of sense as a Community of Interest. While they share similarities with rural areas to the south, the border counties have more in common and more reliance on Indiana than the counties to the north. Likewise, Kalamazoo and Battle Creek should be considered separate from the surrounding rural areas. Though these communities aren't perfectly following county lines, I believe that county lines are a good basis for determining COI-based district lines.	**SW MI Community.** Cass, St. Joseph, Branch, Hillsdale, and most of Berrien Counties form a separate community that should be considered when drawing maps. Similarly rural + small town interests to the VBC/Allegan CoI, but it makes sense to separate the two communities when we consider compact and contiguous districts for state level seats. This part of Michigan also borders Indiana and many in Berrien, Cass, and St. Joe are more reliant on places like South Bend or Ft Wayne. Berrien County as a whole shares more with Indiana than Van Buren or Allegan to the north.

Portal Link	Overall Submission Information	Individual Area Information
c2044-1	**Border Counties.** This is a rural community of interest. While it is not large enough to be a congressional district, I think it represents a community that should be united in representation due to its mostly rural lifestyle. If this should be used to make a congressional seat, it should not pick up any urban areas, as this would dilute the rural voice represented here. Border counties should be kept together and remain rural, not urban.	**Community 1.** *No description provided.*

Portal Link	Overall Submission Information	Individual Area Information
c2065-2	**Improving Regions.** I have mapped two communities of interest. One is Washtenaw and Wayne county, the other is the border counties and Jackson county. These two communities have little in common, and should not in any way be combined in representation. For example, the commission decided to lump Washtenaw County and Monroe county together in a regional plan. While these regions are starting points and were determined previously by bureaucrats in DC, as a lifelong Michigander who is familiar with the areas and unique definition of these communities, here are some thoughts to clean these regions up for district drawings. Washtenaw County is much more connected to Wayne county. For example, the University of Michigan has a campus in Ann Arbor (Washtenaw) and Dearborn extension (Wayne). Additionally, with Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, the Ann Arbor-Ypsi connection should not be separated - especially in federal representation since the universities in this area deserve a representative focused on higher education and urban challenges. Washtenaw County and Wayne county have technology startups and large company offices. This urban area should not have to be represented by someone who is also representing large swaths of urban Michigan. Please consider these differences, and do not combine these two distinctively separate communities in a congressional seat. The rural community I mapped is much more agriculturally based. I lived in one of the rural counties mapped before and now live in one of the urban counties. I can personally attest that these communities have much less in common than some comments try to portray.	**Rural Areas.** Heavily agricultural, smaller communities, lower median income.
c2317-1	**Rural vs Urban Lifestyle.** Washtenaw and Wayne counties are vastly different than counties like Jackson, Branch, Hillsdale and Berrien.	**Community 1.** *No description provided.*

Portal Link	Overall Submission Information	Individual Area Information
c2321-1	**Suburban Lifestyle vs Border Counties.** As someone who grew up and raised a family in rural Michigan, and now living in urban Michigan, I can say firsthand that these are two distinctively different communities, and therefore should not be stuck together in representation. They have different values, lifestyles, family structures, etc. They have different income levels, paces of life, and economies. Any attempt to combine these two communities are absolutely partisan in nature and I would strongly oppose these movements.	**Community 1.** *No description provided.*
c2395-2	**Southwestern Michigan.** Growing up in West Michigan, I'm very familiar with which counties should be combined together for Senate districts. Allegan and Van Buren counties are a clear community of interest-agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, shoreline, rural with small towns, and schools, communities, businesses, and local telecommunications providers that cover both counties. Berrien, Cass, and St. Joseph are all border counties that face similar challenges-school districts overlap, agriculture, community colleges, and government and non-profit entities covering multiple counties. Kalamazoo County is culturally, socially, economically, and geographically a community of interest.	**Border Counties.** Community of Interest along Indiana Border
c2377-2	**West and Southwest Michigan.** Allegan and Van Buren counties are a natural fit. They are shoreline, non-border counties with rural communities and small towns. They are largely based on agriculture, manufacturing and tourism businesses, the local governments work together, and they face the same environmental and access to broadband challenges. Berrien, Cass and St. Joseph counties are a community of interest. They are border counties, the schools are in conferences together, community colleges are significant in the area, and they are rural with small towns. Kalamazoo County is a community of interest. Same media market, one county, same economic engines, and home of Western Michigan University.	**Border Counties.** Community of Interest along Indiana Border

Portal Link	Overall Submission Information	Individual Area Information
c2635-2	**Communities of Southern and Lakeside MI.** I was born and raised in Southern Michigan. The people of this rural and agrarian region value small, close-knit communities. The communities near the border of Michigan are distinct in terms of culture, economics, and values from other small communities through the state, as are the lakeside communities where my wife and I enjoy vacationing.	**Southwest Counties on Border.** Southwestern Communities along the state border. This is a separate community because of the distance from mid-Michigan and has a separate lakeside community that has interests along with Michigan City and other Indiana/Illinois lakeside communties
c2556-3	**Southwest Michigan counties.** These counties share many functions of government and similar economies.	**Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph.** Counties along the border have a different interest that aligns more with IN than MI
c2378-3	**South and West Michigan Communities.** These are several communities that each feature something unique. While they are mostly rural with some larger cities, the rural areas go together well on a map and share many interests, challenges, and governmental functions. The differences are based on location and proximity to other cities. Kalamazoo fits into its own community.	**Indiana Counties.** These counties form communities that have a lot of interest in Indiana specifically, whereas residents in other border counties can easily travel to Ohio as well.
c2380-3	**My South Michigan Map.** I was born and raised in South MI and also believe that county lines are a good basis for communities of interest in Michigan. These four communities each share interests and cooperate within themselves in many ways such as government, economy, and tourism. They are also uniquely different from one another due to where they sit on a map. These communities would be a good base for our maps in Michigan.	**Indiana Border .** The four counties along the Indiana border are another community with people who often travel to Indiana for work, shopping, and entertainment
c2383-1	**Beer.** As a lifelong resident of a border county I know how often I make runs into Ohio and Indiana for groceries and cold beer, and I know many others who do the same. In border counties we are always competing with Ohio and Indiana for the price of goods and services as well as labor. I have many friends who drive south to work out of state, do a majority of their shopping, attend parks, and attend church. This lifestyle is unique to border counties.	**Community 1.** *No description provided.*

Portal Link	Overall Submission Information	Individual Area Information
c2392-1	**College Life.** As someone who goes to college in one of the communities of interest, and spend my summer months in the rural community, I can attest to the differences between these two areas. The Chi ties of Washtenaw and parts of Wayne are much more affluent, have different infrastructure needs, and have public universities. The rural parts are much more agricultural, smaller communities, etc. These two communities should not be connected in representation.	**Community 1.** *No description provided.*
c2402-2	**West and Southwest Michigan.** From experience living throughout West Michigan, certain areas fit together as communities of interest: Grand Rapids, Kentwood and East Grand Rapids share the same economic, culture and overall focus around Grand Rapids. Local hospital systems, public transportation, and infrastructure overlap, and many of the largest "Grand Rapids" manufacturers are in Kentwood, along with the big "Grand Rapids" Woodland Mall. The compactness enables ease of in-person representation in the Senate. Kalamazoo County is a community of interest, self-identifying, home to Western Michigan University, and Kalamazoo is the focus of social and cultural activities. Allegan and Van Buren counties fit together well, being rural with shoreline towns and small downtowns. Economies are largely based on tourism, agriculture, and manufacturing, and many businesses, school districts, broadband infrastructure and the large community of South Haven covers both counties. As border counties, Berrien, Cass, and St. Joseph counties naturally fit together with the same economic challenges and footprint.	**Border Counties.** Community of Interest along Indiana Border
c2403-1	**Border Districts.** Districts that border Indiana ought to be kept together based on having similar problems and people groups.	**IN Border Counties.** The counties along the Indiana border face similar economic challenges & opportunities and should be kept together as part of the redistricting process. Many people commute to Indiana & the competition for jobs is fierce between these border counties.

Portal Link	Overall Submission Information	Individual Area Information
c2410-2	**West Michigan Map.** Muskegon-Oceana-Newaygo: Muskegon based district with nearby counties. Good mix of urban and rural. Close proximity so easy for a Senator to represent and visit all areas of the district in-person. Allegan-Van Buren: Rural communities along the shoreline, with heavy agriculture, tourism and manufacturing economic engines. Overlapping broadband and government services. Berrien-Cass-St. Joseph: Border counties with similar economic and cultural interests. Multiple community colleges and similar rural area with small towns. Kalamazoo County: Geographically tight district with similar cultural, social and economic challenges and issues.	**Border Counties.** Community of Interest along Indiana Border
c2463-3	**Regions inspired by district commission .** Inspired by the commission's planned meeting locations to service each region. and the needs of the population in each region.	**Southwest.** Bordering Indiana, similar to Southeast, the Southwest interact with a different neighbor and likely commerce, shipping from Chicago, giving them specific needs.
c2512-1	**Southwest Michigan communities.** I feel that communities should be kept whole and people have gotten use to having adjoining communities, and adjoining communities have similar interest and interact with each other. I do not feel township should be broken up. This could change our schools, churches. We came to this area for the reason that I have stated Van Buran, and Allegan should be to together. Rural counties should stay together. Rose R. Rook Paw Paw Township	**SW Border.** *No description provided.*
c2517-2	**Lorraine's SW Michigan Plan.** There are several communities in SW Michigan that should be kept together as much as possible. Border counties rely on other states and cities like South Bend, IN more than others to the north. Van Buren and Allegan share many functions of government and interests as manufacturing and agricultural communities along the lakeshore. Kalamazoo forms a self-contained community of interest as well. For these communities it is also important to think about county lines as community lines.	**Border Counties.** *No description provided.*

Portal Link	Overall Submission Information	Individual Area Information
c2493-1	**Border county news.** Living in border counties many don't realize how much rely on newspaper and stations for our local news. I've provided more specifics on my map.	**Border News.** Our area is very unique being border counties. Here in Lenawee county we get the Toledo Blade (newspaper) and get WTOL Broadcast (from Toledo, OH). Monroe county is the same. This counties across the southern border. I know over in Cass county they get the South Bend tribune and Indiana broadcast TV.
c2498-1	**Deposit.** Living in the border county it is annoying, inconvenient, and an economic disparity to have to deal with the bottle deposit.	**Deposit.** Living in the border county it is annoying, inconvenient, and an economic disparity to have to deal with the bottle deposit.
c2514-3	**Southwest Michigan - KM from Hamilton.** Southwest Michigan has 3 distinct communities - Van Buren/Allegan which are rural with small towns/cities Kalamazoo County is urban and the 3 boarder counties of Berrien, Cass and St. Joe share a boarder with Indiana which is a huge community factor.	**Boarder Communites.** These Counties all boarder the State Line
c2519-2	**Southwest Michigan Community.** Between Allegan and Van Buren they are very similar, share the Kalamazoo River, farmland industry, lakeshore.	**Border.** *No description provided.*
c2561-10	**Keeping Michigan competitive.** *No description provided.*	**Community 10.** *No description provided.*

Portal Link	Overall Submission Information	Individual Area Information
c2794-3	**Anthony Eid don't flip flop, use COIs.** It seems that Anthony has lost his focus on communities of interest. Last month Mr. Eid said Monroe belongs with border counties and not the urban area. Searching data in the portal people agree. If you search county tags you will find lots of COIs that connect Monroe to Lenawee and additional border counties to the west. You will find very few COIs that make a real connection of Monroe to the urban areas north. That is why is so puzzling that after a full day of work Mr. Eid dropped a bomb on the commission and wanted to create an alternate map. In my map I brought up the COI I previously submitted, as well as those that are prevalent in my area involving Monroe county. I hope I am wrong, but it seems like Anthony Eid is being more influenced by maps submitted by the AFL-CIO (which offer no creditable COIs), and maps submitted by his Twitter followers than the hundreds of those who took time to properly use this portal and attending the public meetings.	**Border.** Border counties have unique economic interest that require unique representation. There issues are different than in state areas and deserve representation.
c3136-1	**Jackson + Border Counties.** Last week, Commissioner Szetela mentioned that Jackson County would be the most ideal candidate to be grouped with the border counties. I agree 100%. In so many ways Jackson County fits with the border counties. Throughout the Jackson public hearing, the predominant theme was that Jackson, Lenawee, and Hillsdale are all tied closely with one another. Numerous intercounty agencies and organizations already tie these areas together. Culturally, economically, and recreationally, these areas fit together. The Irish Hills region which is a vastly different area (from places like Ann Arbor) anchored by lake life tourism and recreation, as well as the Michigan International Speedway which is built on the county lines of Jackson, Lenawee, and Hillsdale.	**Community 1.** *No description provided.*

Portal Link	Overall Submission Information	Individual Area Information
c3200-2	**SW and Border Communities .** My communities are explained in the map, but in a nutshell my communities are defined by their economics, agriculture, and community sizes.	**Border.** Border counties have similar economic issues because of differing tax, insurances, and cost of services between Michigan and Indiana/Ohio. All of these counties are all more rural, and non have what would consider large urban population centers.
c3225-1	**Monroe is a Border County.** Monroe County is much more tied together with other border counties than it is alike the large cities to the North like Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Ypsilanti. Economically, our focus is on farming and have great deals of interstate commerce due to the border. Just like Lenawee County, and the counties to the west, we have many cross-state commuters and our communities often tie us to individuals living in Ohio or Indiana (in fact, 2/3 of Monroe County head south every weekend to enjoy better food options!) The state border doesn't define our community. With the recent census data, the similarities between border counties was reinforced by population trends across the border counties which was a stark difference between the more urban areas to the north. This reflects the economic realities of our region.	**Community 1.** *No description provided.*
c3240-1	**Communities top priority.** Communities of interest are a top priority to not just me, but also the voters of Michigan who approved this commission. Communities are more important according to the Constitution than other measures pushed by political consultants and even other measures like compactness. We don't want lines splitting us up. We've had politicians do this for years, we don't want random splits. I understand these files can be overlayed onto a map and would consider you do this to follow the Constitution. To me, my community is rural, focused on agriculture, and has similar hobbies when it comes to recreational activities like hunting.	**Community 1.** *No description provided.*

Portal Link	Overall Submission Information	Individual Area Information
c3346-5	**SW MI COIs.** Here is how I would delineate SW MI COIs: Community 1 (tourism-oriented, more diverse)- Lakeshore cities and townships; Community 2 (urban/inner suburb, more diverse): Grand Rapids, inner Kent Suburbs, inland Ottawa, Muskegon; Community 3 (smaller urban, eds/meds, more diverse): Kalamazoo, Portage, Battle Creek; Community 4 (suburban-rural fringe, less diverse): Eastern Kent, Western Ionia, Barry, inland Allegan; Community 5 (rural, agricultural, less diverse): inland Berrien, inland VanBuren, rural Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, rural Calhoun, Branch.	**Community 5.** *No description provided.*
p83-10	**Carter's SW Michigan plan .** Culturally significant SW Michigan plan. I've seen plans for the southwestern portion of the state which include Berrien County in the same district as Monroe County. This is deeply inaccurate and does not represent similar communities in the slightest. As a lifelong SW Michigan resident, I believe this district makes the most sense given our shared histories, commutes, and even aligned sports conferences. These are very close-knit communities and building a district stretching the entirety of Michigan's southern border would be a shame to those who live on the Western end of the state.	**District 10.** *No description provided.*

Portal Link	Overall Submission Information	Individual Area Information
p624-1	**Border County Congressional District.** I am the Township Supervisor for Bedford Township. We are more similar to Toledo than we are to Detroit or Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti. To illustrate this point, here are some of the interests tying us more to our border than the vastly different communities to our north: shared infrastructure, unions, United Way, print and broadcast media, hospital (ProMedica), environmental concerns related to the River Raisin Watershed and Lake Erie, and our areas water is part of the Toledo system. As a leader in a border community, we deal with issues daily related to the southern neighbors (property tax, income tax, sales tax, bottle deposit, shared fire protection) and these issues are not shared by the other 72 non-border counties. Only the UP counties bordering Wisconsin also share these concerns but based off of population in the UP, those counties will already have the same representation. That's why this southern border county area deserves to have representatives attentive to these unique issues. It is my understanding that districts need to be around 775,000 so I included Jackson county as well. I included Jackson county because I understand they have multiple intergovernmental partnerships with Lenawee and Hillsdale counties, and have US 127 headed south into Ohio so their industries understand interstate commerce.	**District 1.** *No description provided.*
p1712-1	**JFW Plan.** *No description provided.*	**District 1.** *No description provided.*

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