APPENDIX
VOLUME II
PART 2

DISTRICT 4

DISTRICT 4

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in the Detroit Area. But wherever possible I think we are best served if we have Congressional districts that are competitive and that are not dominated by one party or the other. And I think that that is much more likely to occur when you don't have gerrymandered districts.

Battle Creek particularly has suffered from that beginning in about the '80s. They were separated from Kalamazoo, then they were put in a District with southern suburbs of Lansing, then they were moved to a District where they were with Southern Hillsdale, Jackson and Lenawee. And now they are part of the third Congressional District, which is one of the most gerrymandered districts in the state with rural Kent County. And I think Battle Creek deserves to be in a Congressional District with a city that it shares a lot of common employment with so that their interests can best be preserved. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much Marcy. 17, 18, 19 and 20.

>> Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Greg Moore. I'm a lifelong resident of Calhoun County, currently reside in Athens Township, the southwest corner of Calhoun County.

And would like to reiterate a couple of comments that were made earlier about really to the greatest extent possible maintaining current with the city, township or county boundaries as a lot of what we do as citizens is oriented around those boundaries. So it's very important from that standpoint I think to keep those intact.

I will recall back in I believe it was the 2000 reapportionment when we were split in our township between two Congressional districts, the 6th and the 7th. And it created absolute havoc for our local clerk as well as the voters of Athens Township. So I would just implore you not to put us through that again.

With respect to our house districts, I'd would like to offer up that the 62nd and the 63rd are actually drawn pretty well and do take into consideration a lot of what we are now calling...when you take a look at whether school District, community college, the very rural nature, you know. With the exception of Battle Creek Metro, which includes the city of Springfield, most of Calhoun County is very rural which is why we identify with Barry County, with the first tier we are in with Kalamazoo County as was mentioned earlier and Charleston and Climax. A lot of our agricultural community goes to Branch County where the implement dealers are currently at, as well as the Farm Bureau, which is in the first tier.

So it really makes sense to the greatest extent possible to keep the current make up of our house districts.

Then with respect to Congressional District, there is some concern with us being in with Kent County. There does not seem to be a lot of commonality between Calhoun and Grand Rapids or Kent County.

And I will tell you again because the rural makeup of the majority of Calhoun County, certainly where we were with Barry, Branch, Jackson and Hillsdale Counties, Lenawee

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>> Good evening. I'm Number 37. My name is Paul Shinkario. Thank you, Ms. Kellom, and the rest of the Commission.

I've got some simple comments. And I'm seconding what I believe number four and a couple others have said.

I would recommend that you follow existing political lines, be they county, city or township.

Significant meandering into other boundaries or significant splintering of the same municipality or boundary is confusing and viewed as suspect by the general public. And probably a big reason the general public voted to form this Commission in the first place.

I live in Antwerp Township, Van Buren County. We are a diverse agriculture, food processing, tourism, and the unique needs of the Lake Michigan coastline.

We are multi-generational families of farmers and small business owners, as well as many new families of current and former migrant workers and transplants from Chicago, et cetera. We've heard a couple of those folks tonight.

They chose to live in Van Buren county for a reason.

We are very similar in many ways to other municipality or other counties in the Southwest Michigan, including Allegan County, where we share a Veteran's Court and a Public Defenders Office with Allegan County. So where there are already existing political ties, to divide them with Congressional and House Districts, makes it pretty awkward to get things done. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much. Number 39.

>> I'm number 38. My name is Abigail Wheeler and I am a current elected official in the Village of Mattawan. And I'm a former State House candidate for the 66th District.

And I have heard and seen all of the people in these communities firsthand. And I think it's really important with the State House districts that we keep in mind the demographics.

Places like South Haven and St. Joe have a lot more in common than, say, where I live in Mattawan. And, with that being said, I also think places like Mattawan and Kalamazoo have a lot more in common including, you know, places where I work in Kalamazoo. I live in Mattawan. Yes, one is a main county and one is Kalamazoo County, but they have a lot more in common than, you know, South Haven does with them like with the lakeshore communities that thrive on that tourism.

So I think when you consider these State House districts, that's a really big factor in all of it. And when it comes to the Congressional District, I think it's really important to keep...to put Kalamazoo and Battle Creek together. And also keep Van Buren in there because, once again, they are similar workforces, industries, and they are important for keeping the communities together as well.

And thank you for all that you're doing. I appreciate it.

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>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you. My apologies. I jumped ahead. So that was 38 so 39.

>> Hi. Thanks. That means I get twice the time, right? I'm kidding. Thank you all. My name is Beth Kelly. I'm from Battle Creek, Michigan.

And I'm here tonight to ask for fair Congressional districts to be drawn that include Kalamazoo and Battle Creek. Up until around 1992 we were in the same Congressional District. However, currently due to overtly partisan gerrymandering we are in now with the Grand Rapids area. And we don't share as much in common with that area.

I got married last year. I was really lucky and I got married in the Catholic church. And as an example Battle Creek is in the Kalamazoo Diocese. And that's not the only thing we share in common. We are connected by the Kalamazoo river. We actually share the watershed. We are connected by the local United Way here. We are connected by Amtrak and the railroad stations. We have a ton in common.
In fact, I bet you would have a really hard time finding a child in Kalamazoo or Battle Creek who wasn't born at Bronson or Burgess. We are heavily connected through our health system.

So I just ask that we be put back in with this community that we share so much. It's not just about the railroad, the transportation. It's about the people who live there. We have a very interconnected working pool. I commute to Kalamazoo every day. On that I-94 corridor. And so I just ask that you keep that in mind while drawing the lines. And I really thank you all for your work and your time.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much for addressing the Commission. Number 40.

>> Yes. My name is Corey King and I'm a resident here in Kalamazoo. I kind of want to Eco with what was just said about Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties. We are certainly both similar and that as was just stated we share similar transportation, but we also share similarities in...when it comes to our education system.

A lot of Kellogg College students go to Western Michigan University. A lot of their credits transfer to Western Michigan University and able to get a four-year degree while being able to remain in Calhoun County.

We also, as we just stated, we share the same medical system with Borgess and Bronson. We also share similarities when it comes to a lot of our communities. A lot has been said tonight about rural and urban. A lot of the same urban communities in Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties are similar as well as in Calhoun County. As was --
[Audio and video difficulties]
Represented by the same U.S. member of Congress. And I just believe that it's time that we correct that wrong and put Calhoun counties in the same Congressional District. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Corey, we appreciate your sharing your comment with the Commission.

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>> Hi. My name is Ryan Gilbert. I reside in the Village of Paw Paw. I'm going to start with the 6th Congressional District real quick because I don't think you are going to find a more concise, contiguous District, excluding the first District, Congressman Bergman.

But in the 6th District we have Kalamazoo, Allegan, Van Buren, Barry and Cass and St. Joe. They all touch each other. There is not one little piece that is Sectioned out to another county. It's all complete.

We share the Kalamazoo River in the 6th District. We have part of the wine trail in the 6th District, that goes all the way up to Traverse City.

We share actually Van Buren County's largest employer Charles River Labs, shares many of its employees, come from Kalamazoo County.

So I think keeping our districts together or the 6th District together is quite imperative.

And when it comes to the District I'm in, I think Allegan and Van Buren County need to stay together. I grew up, Allegan was my second backyard.

I come from a large family. I have many cousins from the area.

And I also am from a Catholic church, from a very Catholic family. And our collaboratives share. They don't see a county border. We share between Van Buren and Allegan.

And another thing, the gentleman behind me touched on about the Public Defender's Office. Criminal justice reform is a huge part of my life. And I strive to make sure people are getting proper representation. And I think Allegan and Van Buren teaming up and creating one public defender's for the two counties was a great step forward in that.

We also...Van Buren County also will spend some of its Juvenile detainees to Allegan County. And our Veteran's Court is huge as well. I take a lot of pride in that for the sole fact I have come from a long line of military men and women.

But if you can just keep those thoughts in line when you are drawing districts. I would appreciate it. Thank you all very much for your time.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for sharing your public comment. 48, 49, 50 and 51.

>> My name is Jerry Potratz. My wife, Louis, and I live in Texas Township, which is the western part of Kalamazoo County. It is U.S. Congressional District six. It is Michigan Senate District 20. And Michigan House District 61.

I'd like to advocate tonight that you consider Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo County, Calhoun County as a community of interest. A number of other folks have talked about that this evening.

From a diversity standpoint, very similar. With Kalamazoo at around let's see 88% white and 12% Black and 5% Hispanic and so is Kalamazoo County. Both of them also have urban cities, inner cities where there is a minority population of over 30% when you look at the cities.

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Battle Creek Kalamazoo I-94 Community

Basic Info

Submitter: Andy Helmboldt
Location: Battle Creek
Submitted: 5/14/2021
Type: coi
ID: c246

Tags

#kalamazoo #battle creek #i94 #i-94

More Info

I live in Battle Creek. We are an I-94 community. Most people I know consider ourselves connected in a community of interest with Kalamazoo more so than with communities (like Jackson) to the east and much more so than with Grand Rapids to the north. I will submit written testimony that describes this connection in more detail.

Comments & Feedback

9/6/2021 - **Susan Johnson** (Battle Creek): I support redistributing so Battle Creek is aligned with Kalamazoo - the I94 corridor - rather than Grand Rapids, as it now is. Battle Creek's connections to Kalamazoo are long and deep...our United Ways are combined. Many BC people work in Kalamazoo and vice versa. #I94 AND #Calhoun and reference the original portal submissions by Andy Helmboldt C246 and F247 and F1286

Map

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

View in Districtr

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Battle Creek Kalamazoo I-94 Community

Basic Info

Submitter: Andy Helmboldt
Location: Battle Creek
Submitted: 5/14/2021
Type: file
ID: f247

Tags

#kalamazoo #battle creek #i94 #i-94

Comments & Feedback

7/1/2021 - **Andy Helmboldt** (Battle Creek City): We now have over 50 people signed on to our testimony.

8/29/2021 - **Sonja** (Battle Creek): I live in Emmett Township and do not want my voice silenced because of a bigger city, which is exactly what would happen. I would never be able to speak with any elected officials about any concerns that I may have, they would be too focused on Kalamazoo. This has been proven repeatedly. The areas surrounding Detroit never have any representation because the focus is always on Detroit. Battle Creek isn't just a city, it also has several townships attached. I am an Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran who was injured during my deployment and I have had many challenges trying to navigate through the Veterans Affairs Administration. Now I do whatever I can to help Veterans across Calhoun County get the care they need which is part of the reason I love it here. Battle Creek is home to several various military establishments. Michigan is blessed to have 2 National Cemeteries and 1 of them is located right here in Battle Creek. Kalamazoo has a long history of being anti-military and by putting these 2 areas together, all the Veterans and

Sent File to Commission

Written Testimony

I live in Battle Creek. We are an I-94 community. Most people I know consider ourselves connected in a community of interest with Kalamazoo more so than with communities (like Jackson) to the east and much more so than with Grand Rapids to the north. Details are included in the attached PDF. The grassroots group I represent is collecting signatures of support for our testimony from individuals and organizations in the greater Battle Creek Area. We currently have 40 signed on. We will submit the document again at the end of the public hearing schedule with a list of signers included. Thank you for your time.

military members in our my neighborhood would never have any representation and more of the programs that were designed for these men and women would continue to disappear. Every time there is a funding issue and the budget needs some adjustments to be made, it is often times a Veteran Benefit that is quietly removed with no widespread mention of it; however, the Veterans who were relying on it notice and can never ask why because their isn't anyone around who will listen to them. I really wish that I was exaggerating on this, but I'm speaking from my own personal encounters with Veterans over the past 18 years. Plus my injuries from my deployment and the many years of being in a wheelchair that followed. I'm used to never being heard. I'm short and my voice isn't very loud. It doesn't take much for practically anyone to walk right in front of me and/or talk louder. I've never been good at speaking up for myself, but I can't tolerate it when I see a Veteran who is either ignored repeatedly or is being treated badly. The other day, I was at a Battle Creek Bombers game for the last game this season and a Vietnam Veteran who was 85 was sitting by himself. A middle school age kid from the opposing Kalamazoo team began screaming at this man because the kid wanted to catch a foul ball that landing close to him. When I tried to explain to this kid what this man has done for us, the kid immediately balled up his fist and started to yell at me. I'm asking the commissioners to please keep our community of interest together. We are quiet and we live in quiet townships and rural areas. Many of us aren't able to simply move away. Many have multiple appointments in a week that keeps them bound to the VA. Many are also on a much lower income than the average person and aren't able to work due to age or an injury sustained while they were trying to protect our country, therefore they can't afford any other option. Any of the remaining programs are typically through various county organizations. Thank you for your time and dedication to this process. I wish everyone the best of luck and all I want is for all communities of interest to have a

representative that is close to them and someone who will listen to their concerns.

9/22/2021 - **Andy Helmboldt** (Battle Creek): Sonja's point about being silenced is exactly what we're talking about. We in the Battle Creek area are currently in a district with Grand Rapids. We feel like an afterthought. We'd much rather be with Kalamazoo, with whom we have much closer Communities of Interest ties.

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Battle Creek's connection and alignment

Basic Info

Submitter: Karen Weideman
Location: Battle Creek/Calhoun County
Submitted: 5/24/2021
Type: written
ID: w348

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

I'm a Battle Creek resident. The connections between Battle Creek and Kalamazoo are strong and historic. We have far more in common economically, culturally and socially along the East/West I94 corridor than with Grand Rapids. We shop in Kalamazoo, have a shared airport, our United Ways are combined, Bronson and Borgess Hospitals serve our community, and the dining and recreational opportunities in Kalamazoo are easily accessed. For all these reasons, Battle Creek should be connected to Kalamazoo when you draw district lines.

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I-94 Corridor Redistricting Proposal

Basic Info

Submitter: Christine
Location: Calhoun
Submitted: 6/28/2021
Type: file
ID: f1155

Tags

#battle creek city

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Sent File to Commission

Written Testimony

I fully support the rationale in the attached file and strongly believe the congressional district should be drawn I-94 Corridor that encompasses the cities of Albion, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, and Marshall. They are essentially within the same watershed, the Kalamazoo River, with the main stem of the river flowing through them.
In addition, The concept of the I-94 corridor would apply to our State Senate district boundary as well. Our community has ties up I-69 northeast to Eaton

County. We have a much stronger historical and economic connection with Eaton than with Barry or Ionia, our current district-mates to the north, or with any counties to the south.

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Calhoun and Kalamazoo-E to W connection

Basic Info

Submitter: Rob Lyerla
Location: East Leroy
Submitted: 6/29/2021
Type: written
ID: w1163

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

The current US house map (Congressional District 3) for Calhoun County suggests that there is more of a north/south connection for Calhoun county. However, Calhoun County has more connections with Kalamazoo County. A shared United Way, shared airport, shared news sources, shared waterway (Kalamazoo River), shared university (WMU) all make a stronger connection between the two communities of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo more reasonable than the current alignments with Grand Rapids. There is also a strong commuting community between the two communities along I-94. The same is true

for the state Senate seat. Maps for representation should be reflective of community affinities and likemindedness.

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Greater Kalamazoo and Greater Battle Cre

Basic Info

Submitter: Robert Weir
Location: Kalamazoo/Kalamazoo
Submitted: 7/19/2021
Type: coi
ID: c1535

Tags

More Info

The communities of Greater Kalamazoo and Greater Battle Creek share many commonalities: a 20-mile section of I-94, an international airport, economic and social services agencies, hospital systems, the Kalamazoo River, and many people commute daily because they live in one community and work in the other. Greater Kalamazoo and Greater Battle Creek need to be in the same US congressional district as they were prior to being gerrymandered apart in the 1990s.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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

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SW Michigan Congressional District

Basic Info

Submitter: Cory King
Location: Kalamazoo
Submitted: 7/1/2021
Type: written
ID: w1345

Tags

#kalamazoo #battle creek #calhoun

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Thank you, commissioners, for allowing me to speak to you. My name is Cory King. I am a voter in the 6th congressional district here in Kalamazoo.
The reason I am submitting this testimony is because I live in a community that has been negatively impacted by gerrymandering. Historically before Kalamazoo was drawn into its current district after the 1990-91 redistricting, Kalamazoo county and Calhoun county were both in the same congressional district and had been in the same district for decades during the

1970s and 1980s. Back then, the district was much more competitive with both Republicans and Democrats alternating holding the congressional seat between 1955 to 1991 (it was called the 3rd district at the time). I believe that this historic wrong needs to be corrected. I would like to draw your attention to the common communities of interests that Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties share. Both counties share a common metro area with the cities of Kalamazoo and Battle Creek. Both counties are connected by a major highway (I-94) and residents of both counties use this highway daily to commute as many residents in Calhoun county work in Kalamazoo and vice versa as both Battle Creek and Kalamazoo are just 20 miles apart. There are many residents in both counties that work for major businesses in the other county. There are many residents in Calhoun county who work for companies and institutions in Kalamazoo county like Pfizer and Western Michigan University and there are Kalamazoo residents who work for companies and institutions in

Calhoun county like Kellogg's and the veteran's hospital.
Both counties share a major airport with the "Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport" which is heavily used by residents of both counties. Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties are both served by Bronson and Borgess hospitals with both hospitals having health care facilities in both communities. Both counties are also served by Western Michigan University which is the biggest four-year university in this area. Many residents of Calhoun county who have attended Kellogg Community College have transferred the credits that they received there to WMU to get a bachelor's degree while being able to remain living in Calhoun county. Both Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties also share similar racial makeup. Kalamazoo county's African-American population makes up 9.7% of the

county's overall population and Calhoun county's African-American population makes up 10.7% of the counties overall population. In counties that neighbor both Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties the population of African-American residents make up less than 5% of their overall population.
Both counties also share the same media markets with residents from both counties getting their local news from the same television and print/digital media organizations. Most of the Michigan residents east of Calhoun county share a different media market than the residents of Calhoun county do. I will conclude this testimony where I began with it. In the early 1990s, Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties were drawn into separate congressional districts after being in the same district for decades. This wrong is long overdue for a correction and both of these communities that share so many things in common, should once again have the same U.S. Representative in Congress.
Thank you for your time and

consideration.

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District 3 reconfiguration

Basic Info

Submitter: Frank Skeltis
Location: Battle Creek
Submitted: 7/2/2021
Type: written
ID: w1357

Tags

#battle creek city

Comments & Feedback

7/2/2021 - **Sean McCormick** (Milford): I changed my redistricting plan to ensure Battle Creek and Kalamazoo are together to make District 6 more competitive and keep more communities together. Feel free to check out my map "A Proportional Congress!" Its far from perfect since I can't keep every like-minded community together with a proportional map, but I felt this was an easy fix to my map.

Written Testimony

As a citizen of Battle Creek, it seems illogical to be included with Grand Rapids as part of district 3. Although Rep. Justin Amash offered opportunities for citizen input, the interests of Grand Rapids and Battle Creek don't mesh. BC is closer to Kalamazoo; we share an airport; WMU has a major presence in our community; Ft. Custer serves both Battle Creek and Kalamazoo. Even Channel 3 gives news from both communities. With BC leaning conservative and Kalamazoo progressive, both points of view are represented. Pair them in the new reconfiguration of voting districts. It makes much more sense.
Thank you for your time,
Frank M. Skeltis
Battle Creek

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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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I-94 Corridor-Kalamazoo and Battle Creek

Basic Info

Submitter: Rob Lyerla
Location: EAST LEROY
Submitted: 7/19/2021
Type: coi
ID: c1544

Tags

More Info

Kalamazoo and Battle Creek share many economic, non-profit, infrastructure, and news sources. They have historically been connected, and are more alike that Grand Rapids or Jackson.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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Three Southwest MI Communities

Basic Info

Submitter: Josh P
Location: Paw Paw Township
Submitted: 7/31/2021
Type: coi
ID: c1943

Tags

#allegan #van buren #holland #kalamazoo #battle creek city

More Info

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.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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Military Communities in Battle Creek

Basic Info

Submitter: Sonja
Location: Calhoun County
Submitted: 8/2/2021
Type: coi
ID: c1979

Tags

More Info

Battle Creek has a populous Veteran community. We have a large VA Hospital, Air National Guard Base, National Cemetery, and many other military establishments. Some are located in Calhoun County, but a few are in Kalamazoo County. It would be nice if all the establishments were in the same District. It would help the Veterans here with resources if we had a Representative who understands what Veterans need.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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Kalamazoo and Battle Creek together

Basic Info

Submitter: Dan Pepper
Location: Kalamazoo Township
Submitted: 8/8/2021
Type: written
ID: w2055

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

In the 20 years I've lived in Kalamazoo, we've always been kept in a separate congressional district from Battle Creek, even though the cities are very close. We share a fair number of services from the airport to various regional organizations and are even planning to connect the systems of recreational bike trails. I'd urge the commission to draw a district that takes into account the closeness and ties between the two cities.

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caring for our community

Basic Info

Submitter: martha schumacher
Location: Kalamazoo
Submitted: 8/26/2021
Type: coi
ID: c2864

Tags

#calhoun #kalamazoo

More Info

I am very interested in having input into how my district may be revised. While I live on the eastern edge of Kalamazoo County, I feel like my community of interest is Calhoun County, specifically the Battle creek area. After spending a 45 year career in nursing, I am retired now and finding more time to volunteer. I feel called to serving our less fortunate brothers and sisters by supporting the Battle Creek food pantry, Grace Health Center, Haven of Rest Ministries and Verona Schools. For that reason I would like our district to look like the map I am submitting. Thank you for your consideration.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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Battle Creek Deltas 5-13-2021 Testimony

Basic Info

Submitter: Lynn
Location: Battle Creek
Submitted: 8/27/2021
Type: file
ID: f3063

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Sent File to Commission

Written Testimony

Our chapter continues our advocacy for a map that aligns with the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek region and not the Grand Rapids/Battle Creek region, this for many reasons stated, does not align with our Battle Creek community of interest.

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Beth's Calhoun/Kalamazoo Plan

Basic Info

Submitter: Beth Byrd
Location: Calhoun
Submitted: 9/5/2021
Type: written
ID: w3677

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Battle Creek, Kalamazoo and nearby communities along the I-94 corridor together comprise an economic and cultural community of interest, and should be drawn together in the same U.S. Congressional district. Since 2012, Battle Creek has been in a district with Grand Rapids – the result of an overtly partisan gerrymander. The representative has come from Grand Rapids in all those terms. Battle Creek and Grand Rapids have few shared economic or other community interests, leaving the interests of the southern part of the District an underrepresented afterthought.
Geography

The Battle Creek area is an I-94 community. We have far more in common economically, culturally, and socially with communities along the east-west I-94 corridor than with similarly-distanced communities to the north and south. And while we do share some a nity with communities to the east, our tightest connection by far is with Kalamazoo, only 20 miles west on I-94.
Our local economies are closely tied with this east-west corridor. We have many examples of shared development efforts and major employers, and our labor pool commutes between the two cities far more than outside them. Our regional airport is the “Kalamazoo Battle Creek International Airport,” and we share a United Way, the “United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region.”
The same two major health care providers, Bronson and Borgess, serve our areas, as well as the same public four-

year college, Western Michigan University. Battle Creekers seeking expanded shopping, dining, and recreation options are mostly likely to go to Kalamazoo to meet their needs than anywhere else.

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District 3 reconfiguration

Basic Info

Submitter: Frank Skeltis
Location: Battle Creek
Submitted: 9/5/2021
Type: written
ID: w3690

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Dear Commissioners,
Firstly, thank you for willingly and generously participating in this essential work. You are truly keeping democracy alive.
As a past volunteer worker for Proposal 2, I feel that it is essential that we keep communities of interest intact. My particular district, 3, was totally gerrymandered putting Battle Creek in with Grand Rapids. It is time to reconnect Battle Creek with Kalamazoo. We are about 20 miles apart; we share an airport; workers commute from each community to the other; WMU has a flight school in Battle Creek; even our local TV station shares news from each community. GR is

a fine place but has little communication or interest in the activities in Battle Creek. Even our newest elected Rep. Peter Meijer has no office in Battle Creek. In short, the most logical and truly representative configuration for District 3 is to include Battle Creek with Kalamazoo.
Thank you for your time and good work!

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C246 and F247 and F1286

Basic Info

Submitter: Gary Garland
Location: Battle Creek
Submitted: 9/5/2021
Type: written
ID: w3693

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

The communities of Kalamazoo County and Calhoun County belong in the same U.S. Congressional District! There are so many factors that connect these counties. Health Care Systems, Colleges, I-94 and the many people who reside in one county but work in the other, the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, United way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo region. I have lived in Calhoun County all of my life and we have so much in common with Kalamazoo county! By comparison, we have hardly anything in common with the other surrounding counties !

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Aligning Battle Creek with Kalamazoo

Basic Info

Submitter: Karen Weideman
Location: Battle Creek/Calhoun
Submitted: 9/5/2021
Type: written
ID: w3674

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

I've lived in Battle Creek 33 years. The connections between Battle Creek and Kalamazoo are long and deep. We have a shared United Way organization. We share an international airport. Retail and commerce flow easily between our communities. The I94 corridor connection flows constantly between our communities. Calhoun County and Kalamazoo County residents are connected through Western Michigan University programs. I'd also reference original portal submissions by Andy Hemboldt C246 and F247 and F1286. The alignment with Grand Rapids is a gerrymandering construct only and does not make sense in any other way.

Eliminating political considerations, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo being together makes sense.

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C246 and F247 and F1286

Basic Info

Submitter: Kathy Garland
Location: Battle Creek
Submitted: 9/5/2021
Type: written
ID: w3692

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

In reference to C 246 and F247 and F1286: The communities of Kalamazoo County and Calhoun County belong in the same US Congressional District. There are many factors that connect these counties, including economics and economic development, health care systems, I-94 and the many people who reside in one county but work in the other, the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, and the Kalamazoo River watershed, United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo region.
I have lived in Calhoun County all of my life and we have so much more in common with Kalamazoo County then any other counties surrounding us!

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Calhoun and Kalamazoo County Synergies

Basic Info

Submitter: Linda Pell
Location: Calhoun County
Submitted: 9/5/2021
Type: written
ID: w3672

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

I am writing to support having Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties together in a Congressional District. Our local economies are closely tied within this east-west corridor. We have many examples of shared development efforts and major employers, and our labor pool commutes between the two counties far more than outside them. Our regional airport is the "Kalamazoo Battle Creek International Airport," and we share a United Way, the "United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region." We share the same two major health care providers, Bronson and Borgess. Albion College is building strong relationships with Western Michigan University, which

recently invested in a major expansion of their Aviation Program at the Battle Creek airport. I have lived in rural Convis Township for 40 years -- and it is apparent that a strong Battle Creek Metropolitan Area lifts the entire county and our economic, health and educational synergies with Kalamazoo County make us stronger. Having a fair, competitive Congressional District with representation accountable to the voters -- not a political party -- will work to the advantage of constituents in both counties. Significant portions of both Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties are rural and voters will have the opportunity to select good representatives who look out for both urban and rural needs.

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I-94 Corridor Redistricting Proposal

Basic Info

Submitter: Lyn Alban
Location: Grand Junction / Van Buren
Submitted: 9/5/2021
Type: written
ID: w3679

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

The communities of Kalamazoo County and Calhoun County belong in the same US Congressional District. There are many factors that connect these counties, including economics and economic development, health care systems, I-94 and the many people who reside in one county but work in the other, the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, and the Kalamazoo River watershed.
There must be fair, competitive districts -- a Calhoun, Branch, Hillsdale County District would create an overwhelmingly safe, Republican majority district while a Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren County

District would be a very competitive Congressional District, putting voters in charge, not a political party. The entire purpose of the MICRC is to draw fair, non-gerrymandered districts for the next decade.
Please refer to the original submissions by Andy Helmboldt: C246, F247, and F1286 for more detailed rationale on this proposed redistricting.
Thank you.

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Kalamazoo and Calhoun Co. - combining

Basic Info

Submitter: Mary Laurell
Location: Portage
Submitted: 9/5/2021
Type: written
ID: w3694

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

I think that Kalamazoo and Calhoun Counties belong in the same U.S. Congressional district. These counties are linked by many similarities. The Kalamazoo River watershed is an important one. Others include the fact that many people live in one and work in the other, often using I-94 which is a connecting corridor between the two. The Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Airport, and other factors including healthcare systems, higher education and economic development are all important parts of the community that we share with each other. Having representation that can address the needs citizens of such a shared area is extremely important.

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Kalamazoo/Battle Creek corrider

Basic Info

Submitter: Naomi Ludman
Location: Dowagiac
Submitted: 9/5/2021
Type: written
ID: w3680

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

The communities of Kalamazoo County and Calhoun County belong in the same US Congressional District. There are many factors that connect these counties, including economics and economic development, health care systems, I-94 and the many people who reside in one county but work in the other, the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, and the Kalamazoo River watershed. I used to live in Kalamazoo and clearly these two counties form a community of interest that has only become more significant over time and the development of the I-94 corridor.

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#Battle Creek #I94 #Calhoun

Basic Info

Submitter: Rob Lyerla
Location: Calhoun
Submitted: 9/5/2021
Type: written
ID: w3668

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Kalamazoo County and Calhoun County have a historical relationship that predates current political lines. Both of these counties reflect an economic Community of Interest, with shared institutes of higher education, shared employers, shared employees and shared resources. The rural/urban divide suggested by many completely ignores that regardless of the physical location of one's home, the fact remains that these two counties universally rely on the cities of Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Marshall and Albion as regional resources. These two counties should be returned to their historical connection for reasonable representation in legislative bodies both statewide and national.

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Kalamazoo and Calhoun Counties Belong

Basic Info

Submitter: Ruth Eichler
Location: Kalamazoo City
Submitted: 9/5/2021
Type: written
ID: w3682

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

The communities of Kalamazoo County and Calhoun County belong in the same US Congressional District. There are many factors that connect these counties, including economics and economic development, health care systems, I-94 and the many people who reside in one county but work in the other, the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, and the Kalamazoo River watershed.

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Create a Balanced Voting District

Basic Info

Submitter: Jim Ferner
Location: Kalamazoo
Submitted: 9/6/2021
Type: written
ID: w3700

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

The communities of Kalamazoo County and Calhoun County belong in the same US Congressional District. There are many factors that connect these counties, including economics and economic development, health care systems, I-94 and the many people who reside in one county but work in the other, the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, and the Kalamazoo River watershed. We support fair, competitive districts -- a Calhoun, Branch, Hillsdale County District would create an overwhelmingly safe, Republican majority district while a Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren County District would be a very competitive

Congressional District, putting voters in charge, not a political party.

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I94 corridor

Basic Info

Submitter: Susan Callahan
Location: Battle Creek
Submitted: 9/6/2021
Type: written
ID: w3698

Written Testimony

I support the Battle Creek, Calhoun County, Kalamazoo redistricting proposal presented by Andy Hembolt - C246, F247, F1286

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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Battle Creek/Calhoun County is an I-94

Basic Info

Submitter: Christine Kosmowski
Location: Battle Creek
Submitted: 9/7/2021
Type: written
ID: w3897

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

The Battle Creek/Calhoun County area is an I-94 community. We have far more in common economically, culturally, and socially with communities along the east-west I-94 corridor than with similarly-distanced communities to the north and south. And while we do share some affinity with communities to the east, our tightest connection by far is with Kalamazoo, only 20 miles west on I-94. Our local economies are closely tied with this east-west corridor. We have many examples of shared development efforts and major employers, and our labor pool commutes between the two cities far more than outside them. Our regional airport is the “Kalamazoo - Battle Creek

International Airport,” and we share a United Way, the “United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region.” Comments have been made regarding the agricultural and rural communities in Calhoun County needing fair representation and Calhoun County should be represented in a district with Branch and Hillsdale County where those needs are understood. The I-94 corridor also represents agricultural needs between Kalamazoo, Calhoun, and Van Buren Counties. Of note is that Calhoun County is presented as an agricultural community; however, Kalamazoo County has annual agricultural sales of $237M, while Calhoun County has annual ag sales of $114M! (2017 figures). Furthermore, Calhoun is a bigger county, having 20 townships, while Kalamazoo has 16! Therefore, we have a lot more in common with Kalamazoo than Hillsdale! Please consider creating a district

encompassing Calhoun, Kalamazoo and Van Buren Counties. Thank you.

I fully support the original portal submissions by Andy Helmboldt, C246 and F247 and F1286

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Kalamazoo Co/Calhoun Co = 1 district

Basic Info

Submitter: Don Schmidt
Location: Kalamazoo City
Submitted: 9/7/2021
Type: written
ID: w3894

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

I have lived/voted in Kalamazoo County for over 50 years. That experience has led me to the observation/conclusion that the communities of Kalamazoo County and Calhoun County belong in the same US Congressional District. There are many factors that connect these counties, including economics and economic development, health care systems, I-94 and the many people who reside in one county but work in the other, the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, and the Kalamazoo River watershed. I support the previous submissions on this position by Andy Helmboldt, C246, F247, and F1286. Thank you.

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Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties

Basic Info

Submitter: Miriam
Location: Marshall
Submitted: 9/7/2021
Type: written
ID: w3896

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

I support Andy Hembolt's position in his C246 and F247 and F1286 submissions. Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties are made up of communities bound together through work, school and family. I moved to Marshall just Albion students joined the Marshall school district. I work in Kalamazoo and many of us also spend our time in Battle Creek and other areas along I-94 to the lake. Our interests do not stop short of agricultural needs; we understand that our farmers must also be represented. We are strong advocates for waterway preservation and being good stewards to our environment. We support the diverse needs of everyone in Calhoun

county. Please allow the district to represent all the people who live here.

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Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties conjoined

Basic Info

Submitter: Wayne Kukuk
Location: Battle Creek/Calhoun County
Submitted: 9/7/2021
Type: written
ID: w3893

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

(Please refer to original portal submissions by Andy Helmboldt C246 and F247 and F1286)
The Battle Creek/Calhoun County area is an I-94 community. We have far more in common economically, culturally, and socially with communities along the east-west I-94 corridor than with similarly-distanced communities to the north and south. And while we do share some affinity with communities to the east, our tightest connection by far is with Kalamazoo, only 20 miles west on I-94. Our local economies are closely tied with this east-west corridor. We have many examples of shared development efforts

and major employers, and our labor pool commutes between the two cities far more than outside them. Our regional airport is the “Kalamazoo - Battle Creek International Airport,” and we share a United Way, the “United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region.”
Comments have been made, e.g.; "…The agricultural and rural communities in Calhoun County need fair representation and Calhoun County should be represented in a district with Branch and Hillsdale County where our needs are understood." It's interesting, that Calhoun County is presented as such an agricultural community, while Kalamazoo County is this "Liberal" community....
Kalamazoo County has annual agricultural sales of $237M, while Calhoun County has annual ag sales of $114M! (2017 figures). AND, Calhoun is a bigger county, having 20 townships, while Kalamazoo has 16! We have a lot more in common with Kalamazoo than Hillsdale! Please consider creating a district

encompassing Calhoun, Kalamazoo and Van Buren Counties. Thank you.

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Battle Creek and Kalamazoo

Basic Info

Submitter: Barbara Hemstad
Location: Battle Creek City
Submitted: 9/16/2021
Type: coi
ID: c4656

Tags

More Info

Battle Creek should be districted with Kalamazoo in both state Senate and Congressional maps. Our economies are very intertwined with one another and of course both cities are urban. Moreover, we in Battle Creek have much more in common with residents of Kalamazoo than we do with those in the rural parts of Calhoun. Please split us off from the rest of Calhoun and include us with Kalamazoo as you did in the main Senate map proposal. Thank you. -Barbara Hemstad

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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Representing Kzoo and Battle Creek

Basic Info

Submitter: Peter
Location: Kalamazoo
Submitted: 9/17/2021
Type: plan
Congressional Districts
ID: p4788

Tags

#kalamazoo

More Info

This plan allows Kalamazoo and Battle Creek to be represented in the House of Representatives.

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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Kzoos/Battle Creek's Interests Neglected

Basic Info

Submitter: Peter
Location: Kalamazoo
Submitted: 9/17/2021
Type: written
ID: w4783

Tags

#kalamazoo #battle creek city

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

The areas of Kalamazoo, Portage, and Battle Creek are not being recognized for having differing interests and demographics than the other counties they are being placed with. Please change it so that they are given the voices they deserve by grouping these districts together and reshaping the previous districts they were a part of.

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Battle Creek Kalamazoo I-94 Community

Basic Info

Submitter: Andy Helmboldt
Location: Battle Creek
Submitted: 9/22/2021
Type: file
ID: f5284

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Sent File to Commission

Written Testimony

I live in Battle Creek. We are an I-94 community. Most people I know consider ourselves connected in a community of interest with Kalamazoo more so than with communities (like Jackson) to the east and much more so than with Grand Rapids to the north.
The draft State Senate map as currently proposed (as of 9/22/21) takes this COI into account, but the draft Congressional map does not - that map lumps Battle Creek together with rural communities to the southeast of us, which is even worse from a COI standpoint than our previous district with Grand Rapids, which was already bad. From a COI standpoint, I think it makes more sense to split Calhoun County if necessary, like the current draft State Senate map does.
Details of our COI are included in the attached PDF. The grassroots group I represent is collecting signatures of support for our testimony from

individuals and organizations in the greater Battle Creek Area. As of July 1 we had more than 50 signed on, shown in the included PDF, which was also submitted back then.

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How to Draw Western Michigan

Basic Info

Submitter: Lizzie Deerdrik
Location: Battle Creek
Submitted: 9/27/2021
Type: coi
ID: c5543

Tags

More Info

Here's the plan to adopt for Western Michigan. Battle Creek is a diverse community with ties to Kalamazoo. It should be with Kalamazoo. We must not disenfranchise voters of color by cracking minority clusters across 4 districts in this region!

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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Battle Creek with Kalamazoo

Basic Info

Submitter: Catherine Bollacks
Location: Battle Creek
Submitted: 9/28/2021
Type: coi
ID: c5545

Tags

More Info

The commission really needs to spend another day on drawing congressional maps. Some of the "alternative" maps are mess and aren't even contiguous or equal in population. You need to clean these up so you can run partisan fairness analysis on them and solicit public feedback. They cannot be fairly evaluated in their current state. Additionally, there are some iterations that you haven't drawn yet despite discussing based on public comment. For instance, there are no versions of the maps with Battle Creek in the same district as Kalamazoo. As a resident of Battle Creek, I believe it's very important that the commission draw some alternatives with this configuration. The two cities are closely linked, share employers, and both have substantial African American populations. To run the partisan fairness analysis you will also need all of the different combos of configurations to assess which are the most fair in aggregate (Muskegon+GR, BC+Kzoo, Tri-Cities w/ Midland; Muskegon+GR, BC+Kzoo, Tri-Cities w/o Midland; Muskegon+GR, Kzoo w/o BC, Tri-Cities w/ Midland; etc.). It might be worth asking your staff to merge different

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.)

versions so that you make sure you have all combinations.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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Two Peas in a Pod

Basic Info

Submitter: Phyllis Harvey
Location: Battle Creek City
Submitted: 9/28/2021
Type: coi
ID: c5597

Tags

More Info

Battle Creek and Kalamazoo are two peas in a pod and should be redistricted together. We share industries and employers and have common interests around the development of mid-size cities. We are q community of interest.

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Map

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

View in Districtr

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

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>> My name is Niki I'm a Lansing resident.
First of all I do want to they for your time and effort.
I did watch the hearing yesterday.
That was very long.
I'm sure it's not easy.
Over the past few years I've canvassed and worked for the census all over the Greater Lansing area.
I was able to really get an understanding and feeling for the whole try County region.
And we are very diverse economically and socially.
I have noticed on the maps that Lansing has lost a District in the Michigan house and I think that would be harmful to this community because we want a competitive area.
I can understand we want to prioritize Community of Interest but unpacking the Lansing into five districts would be more fair in the long-term.
I'm looking forward to seeing a more fair map in the future and thank you again for your time and effort.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 54.
>> Yes, good evening or I guess good afternoon but my name is Jonathan bird.
I live in just outside of Battle Creek Michigan Emmet Township but wanted to speak with you about our area and I lived in Calhoun County all my life.
I think that on your State House maps you guys have done a great job keeping Battle Creek and Albion together.
I think those two communities have a lot of similar interests and it's really important in the State House to keep those together.
And then the rest of the County I think should stick together and you guys should look to go south or west with the rest of remaining portion of Calhoun County.
The thing I wanted to speak to you guys most about is Battle Creek and Kalamazoo.
When it comes to Congressional maps, State Senate maps, folks in Battle Creek do not go to Lowell in Grand Rapids to do shopping or have any interest.
I think linking the City of Battle Creek closer with Kalamazoo or linking the City of Battle Creek or the Metropolitan area of Battle Creek with Lansing or suburbs of Lansing has a lot more in common than the current District currently has.
I really want to urge you guys to take a look at that.
I know we have Commissioners from Southwest Michigan.
They understand Battle Creek and Kalamazoo and it's important to keep those Metropolitan areas together.
Thank you for all you are doing and have a great rest of your day.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 54, number 55, 56.
>> Sorry could I ask a clarifying question.

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I wanted to make sure, sir were you suggesting we keep Battle Creek and Kalamazoo together? Or Battle Creek and Lansing as a better alternative? Sorry, I just wanted to make sure I understood your comment.

>> Sure, so I would suggest either or.

You know think about the main corridors that go through both Battle Creek or go through Battle Creek, Battle Creek on I-94.

You can be to Lansing in 40 minutes.

You can be to Kalamazoo in 20.

If you guys are you know really intent on keeping the County of Kalamazoo together because of the population and how it works, I can understand that.

But if that is going to be the case, I would suggest finding a way to move Battle Creek along you know I-94 up I-69 because that is a very clear corridor.

You know, folks in Battle Creek go to Bellevue.

They go to Olivet and Charlotte and west Lansing to shop.

If you reference AFL fair maps project, they have a State Senate District that you know incorporates that corridor and I think that is valuable.

But on the Congressional side like Battle Creek and Kalamazoo share an airport.

We have so much in common and when you have the bigger districts like a Congressional District it just makes sense to put Battle Creek with Kalamazoo together thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for that clarification.

>>.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead ma'am.

>> Thank you I'm Amanda west.

I lived in the Lansing area for 20 years.

In East Lansing, Holt and Delta Township and now in Meridian Township.

My two boys have attended Waverly and Haslett schools.

They are currently in Haslett.

And my husband grew up and attended Holt schools so we are Lansing area.

And that entire time I've worked in the City of Lansing.

Each of those communities that I listed are perfectly capable of anchoring their own House Districts.

Each have their own communities of interest in their vibrant neighborhoods.

The local Governments the shopping districts and our robust school systems.

Please allow the Greater Lansing area to be fully represented by creating five districts in the region.

And to that point I applaud creating two Senate districts for the region.

Previous commenters referred to Lansing and East Lansing being drawn together for 150 years.

Yes, that's why we are here.

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Map 244 splits Portage and Texas Township in half and the City of Portage needs to be whole despite a Portage rivalry.
The U.S. Congressional maps it should be considered because it puts Kalamazoo Portage and Battle Creek together.
Map 230 known as birch is okay and very similar to maps 218, 219, 238 and 240 which are Juniper, Clark's and Szetela.
Map 201 apple needs to be tabled because of the challenging Kalamazoo Grand Rapids industrial corridor.
Kalamazoo has a stronger connection with Battle Creek than with Lansing or with Grand Rapids.
As far as the State House maps all six maps are similar with Kalamazoo in its own District and Portage Texas Township and Oshtemo in another District.
Maps 227 and 278 Pine and Peach need to be considered the only two with Midland Bay City corridors created.
229 known as oak can be parked.
Thank you for the fantastic work so far and thank you for the opportunity to share our comments.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 97.
>> Good evening, Commissioners.
My name is David Anderson.
I was born and raised in Grand Rapids.
I've also lived in Ottawa County.
And Walker and I'm back in Grand Rapids right now.
I would like to ask a question from everybody that's listening.
If the majority of Michigan voters voted democratic across the board, how on earth can the republicans lock the legislature? Year of year after year.
There is only two possible answers.
Accident or gerrymandering.
I urge you to do what you were empowered to do and I'm sure you took an oath to accomplish that.
You must reverse gerrymandering.
And I've listened to a lot of comments about how Counties should stay together, cities should stay together, communities should stay together.
I don't care.
If the person across the street from me is in a different District, it doesn't bother me except to the extent that my vote is diluted.
And I can't get representation in Lansing or in Washington D.C.
Now the reason I'm here is because I care about the planet.

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As a resident of Allendale I'm blown away that some of these maps link Allendale with Kalamazoo.
These communities have basically no shared interest.
Allendale is considered a lakeshore community surrounded by agricultural.
Kalamazoo has so much more in common with Battle Creek than it does with grand haven Holland or even Saugatuck.
I believe the best map I have seen that represents a true lakeshore community is map 201.
Also known as the apple map.
I also want to thank Commissioner Lange for listening to communities across West Michigan keeping Ottawa County together.
And in a lakeshore based District is what so many are asking for.
And I also want to touch on the subject that the Congressional level too.
That I'm concerned with the District that represents the UP that touches all the way down to Mount Pleasant.
I don't really understand commonalities between iron wood and the soaring Eagle casino.
Thank you for coming to West Michigan.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 128.
>> 129 or 130.
>> I'm 136.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: You're 136.
>> You called 140.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: 129 and 130.
>> How are you? I'm Dandre. I'm 129.
I am commenting on the redistricting.
In 2018 I was one of the people knocking many doors on the south side of Grand Rapids for gerrymandering just because I understand how that creates a lot of different political problems.
Knowing that the power structure here are mostly controlled by republicans, I just ask regardless of political affiliation that you guys make the maps more reflective of the demographics of people regardless of democrat or republican I just like to see the maps equal.
I like to see the people be able to vote for their Senators.
For their state legislatures, for the Commissions, for the Kent County Commissioners whatever level of Township or election that people usually vote for.
I just ask that you guys make it fair, make it equitable.
Make sure the people can elect people that look like them.
There is a lot of African/American people that don't know anything about this Redistricting Commission.

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All the Chaldeans and Middle Easterns are registered as whites.
We are not white.
Our voices have always been neglected.
And we want to change this.
We voted for proposal two to have community of interest take priority and not efficiency gaps.
They are not mentioned in proposal two.
They are partisan wishes take COI as number one and I implore you not to dilute our voices and we go to the outskirts of Wixom, we are Shelby, Troy and more.
We are a faith based community and tentacle Dean churches in Detroit area and estimated to be 160,000 and growing.
All of these proposed maps dilute Chaldean voices and give us a voice in one District.
This Commission promised to give communities of color a voice.
Please give the Chaldean community a voice in one District.
I created this map 68270 that is 68270.
This map represents majority of Chaldeans in one District.
Thank you, Commissioners, for your hard work.
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Kathy.
>> Can you hear me?
>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.
>> Okay finally.
I have listened to most of the comments and most of the people are from Grand Rapids.
As is appropriate.
Since that is where the meeting is.
But since there was no meeting in southwestern Michigan this is the best, I could do.
I am concerned particularly with the Congressional map for Battle Creek and Calhoun County.
Most of the maps are absurd on the surface.
Including Battle Creek and points southwest.
All the way to Lake St. Clair.
Which I believe is Monroe County.
But I'm not even sure what Counties are there.
I couldn't even tell you what cities are there.
That is not appropriate.
I looked at the Lange map.
And EID I don't know how to pronounce that map.
That includes Battle Creek with Kalamazoo which is a much better fit.
Battle Creek and Kalamazoo have a community of interest.
People in Kalamazoo work in Battle Creek.
People in Battle Creek work in Kalamazoo.

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It closely addressed my concerns.
And thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 47Merna.
>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Let's move to number 48 Natalie Hayes.
>> Can you hear me?
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Yes, we can.
>> Good evening I'm Natalie Hayes and a lifelong Michigan resident and reside in Grand Traverse County.
I want to thank you for the work you have done to draw the legislative maps and the work you will continue to do as this process unfolds.
I know I was very excited back in 2018 when there was a ballot proposal that would create the new Commission that I'm speaking for and I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.
I'm in favor of the Pine cherry and birch maps and recognize there are improvements that need to be made and I appreciate seeing the Traverse City and Leelanau State House lines together.
And also concerned about partisan fairness in this process and urge you to make the changes necessary to avoid partisan bias as we will have the maps for the next decade.
Thank you so much.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: You're welcome thank you.
Number 49, Paul.
>> Hello.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Hello we can hear you.
>> Hi Paul M living and voting in Kalamazoo.
Battle Creek and Kalamazoo are interconnected at a level that they should be united in a voting District.
There are business connections and interdependence.
Large number of people live in one City and work in the other.
For instance, executive at Kellogg's here in Kalamazoo and drives to Battle Creek everyday as a neighbor.
Another my violin teacher lived in Battle Creek and worked at western.
I lived in both cities when I lived in Battle Creek, I went to Kalamazoo daily for several years and now I'm living in Kalamazoo but a lot of my work comes with work with Battle Creek Michigan.
Today I worked on a project for someone in Battle Creek.
There are cultural connections interdependence and regional arts organizations serve Battle Creek and Kalamazoo like art symphonies and civic theatre.

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Please consider the community of the Kalamazoo Battle Creek area when drawing the lines of Government representation.
At one time we were united with representation.
Please do not divide us again.
Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Let's move on to number 50 mark Payne.
>> Good evening can everybody hear me.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Yes, we can.
>> Good evening my name is mark Payne and ask you to recognize indigenous population as community of interest and leave no stone unturned as you use all resources and staff and all information that you receive.
I urge you make sure that maps are fair partisan wise.
As you make adjustments for higher criteria, please make sure that partisan fairness is properly prioritized.
Lastly, I support MSU's independent for social policy and public research recommendation.
That the MICRC reevaluate its approach towards compliance with the V RA.
We need primary data.
Which is public comment.
All the County clerks have it.
Thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 51 Cindy.
>> Can you hear me?
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Yes, please go ahead.
>> I think you are trying to do the impossible because when you put these different variables up that you want to have a vote representation proportional to the vote, the way to get that would be proportional representation.
But with this system we have of plurality it discourages independent thinking and where people like if you had approval voting where you can vote for as many people as you want but not anybody more than once, then like in the Presidential primary I could have voted for three different candidates on the left that I liked.
Instead of having to choose between one and the other and that is what happens, they split the vote so much between different factions that they add extra candidates and so forth.
And so it's gamed right now by people who want to game it the politicians and people behind them.
Give people the idea they can strategize approval voting look it up on the Internet.

← Next Previous →

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

← Next Previous →

Chestnut Map

Basic Info

Submitter: Dashuna Robinson
Location: Benton Harbor, MI
Submitted: 11/2/2021
Type: written
ID: w8462

Tags

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

Written Testimony

Good morning to the Commission and thank you for your willingness to consider our concerns in your decision. I am Dashuna Robinson, a community leader in Berrien County, specifically Benton Harbor, MI. I am the President of the Board for Benton Harbor Area Schools, an employee of MDHHS, where I serve as an assistance payment supervisor, a champion for diversity, equity and inclusion, and the water coordinator for needs in Benton Harbor. I am also a Trustee for the 6 Congressional District, so I speak from a heart centered on service and leadership, in the best interest of Michigan families and disenfranchised communities.
Viewing from a diversity, equity and governance-based lens, it is in the best interest of communities such Benton Harbor and Kalamazoo, cities who have historically held the largest African American populations in Southwest Michigan, to remain in the same congressional district. Each of these communities have similar congressional needs, having dealt with their own levels of crisis in recent years. Its imperative that we maintain a congressional district that allows for focus on these comparative community concerns. Southwest Michigan is very unique it is needs as the commission has pointed out. Dividing these communities could potentially delay progress for maintaining self-sustaining families and strong communities. Our efforts could be further improved by including communities with similar make up, such as South Haven, Covert, and Battle creek. It is for the reasons noted that I speak in

support of the “chestnut’ congressional map, as the best draw for Southwest Michigan, and believe the “Apple map” is a disservice to our communities. Thank you for your time.

← Next Previous →

Kalamazoo district

Basic Info

Submitter: Deb K
Location: Kalamazoo City
Submitted: 11/3/2021
Type: written
ID: w8566

Written Testimony

Kalamazoo should not be linked with Grand Rapids. It should be linked with Battle Creek, as they are both more rural and share an airport.

Tags

#kalamazoo

Comments & Feedback

No comments have been submitted.

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Pine Sol map which really does address these critical issues so please take a look at that map and take it into consideration.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Anthony Skinnell.

>> Good morning, Commissioners Anthony Skinnell Wayne County. Trying to make another full map if you know what it would look like to incorporate the two Black plurality districts for Detroit with east west split into a full map. Maybe it doesn't look right for your area. I'm sorry I'm not from your area. You spent one day on Congress and that was it. One and done. Pretty much like how the District was drafted. In one day by Commissioner from Rochester Hills drawing our Detroit District it looks like it was drawn. It does not look like it makes sense the with the northeast and southwest and west and west, I mean if it's not good for your area I don't know why you couldn't fix it. Now we are left to the Chair's good graces to do it on her own time if she can for us to have decent representation. I mean I'm sorry, you have not spent enough time on it. You keep glossing over Detroit and it's really inappropriate. You want to arbitrate what is appropriate for us and you cannot maintain quorum for one full meeting.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Audry-Lester.

>> Hi, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> I'm Audrey Lester from Berrien County in the northwest corn and I'm originally from Chicago and came to this area as a by way of a family cottage and now am a resident. I know the Lake from many aspects. Please keep the lakeshore State House map as you've drawn it. It's a great representation of St. Joe, Benton Harbor New Buffalo and South Haven. Economically and by way of diversity it would make sense to add Saugatuck and Douglas if you would. They are cultures and economies and cultures of interest. To put them in conflict with rural entities doesn't make sense. For Congress we would love to have Benton Harbor and Kalamazoo and St. Joe stay together. We need a bigger Metropolitan area to help anchor us so the chestnut map is preferred over the apple map. I'm so glad I heard your comments earlier today. It's a Gargantuan task you all have undertaken. It's a work in progress. Be kind to yourselves and remember that and the voters will appreciate it. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Melany-Mack.

>> Hello, I'm Melany-Mack live in Detroit in Clinton County and came with remarks I want to say but I appreciated the Commission's Chair her emphasis of how you are a team and thought we as citizens of Michigan are a team too. And to work as a team we got to have a level playing field. And we need that to make our democracy work. So the fairness of these maps is really, really critical to do that. I just wanted to say you have done a great job on the birch map. And I really like that a lot. And I hope that you

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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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And I'm also very disappointed to see that you guys continue to work on the east side of the state and not put as much thought into the west side of the state maps.
Again, please do not continue to push Kalamazoo County toward to lakeshore as we do not share the same ideas.
Again, I thank you for your work and I appreciate all that you do but I wish that you would spend more time on the west side to give us more consideration as to what we've been asking for.
Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
That concludes our Remote Public Comment.
I do not believe we have any in-person at this point.
So will – we have had a practice of taking a break.
Do we want to take a break, Commissioners, or we want to keep going?

>> We need to take a break and review a Baker memo.
So I would suggestion 20, 25 minutes so that will give us a break and a time to review the memo.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: Very good.
It is currently without objection.
It is currently 10:29 and we will recess until 10:30.
Hearing no objections –

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: It is 10:30.

>> We're going to do a minute?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHHORN: I apologize.
We will recess until 11:00 o'clock.
No, thank you.
I appreciate that.
I need it.
Okay.
Without objection, we will recess until 11:00 a.m.
Hearing no objection, we are in recess until 11:00 o'clock.
Thank you very much.

[Board in recess]

← 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!

Target	Deviation	Total Population	NH White (Combo)	NH Black (Combo)	NH Native (Combo)	NH Asian (Combo)	NH Pac Islander (Combo)	NH Other (Combo)	Hispanic	Voting Age Population	VAP NH White (Combo)	VAP NH Black (Combo)	VAP NH Native (Combo)	VAP NH Asian (Combo)	VAP NH Pac Islande (Comb
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

Color	#	Name	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)	VAP NH Other (Combo)	VAP Hispanic
	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%)	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%)	27,402 (4.33%)	5,147 (0.81%)	554 (0.09%)	7,540 (1.19%)	10,255 (1.62%)

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