

IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE SUPREME COURT

DETROIT CAUCUS; ROMULUS CITY  
COUCIL; DR. CAROL WEAVER, 14<sup>th</sup>  
Congressional District Executive Board  
Member; WENDELL BYRD, Former State  
Representative; and DARRYL WOODS,  
Resident of Wayne County.

Supreme Court Case No.

Jurisdiction:

*Plaintiffs,*

**VERIFIED COMPLAINT**

v.

MICHIGAN INDEPENDENT CITIZENS  
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION,

*Defendant.*

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**VERIFIED COMPLAINT**

NOW COMES, the above-named Plaintiffs (hereinafter "Plaintiffs"), by and through their attorneys at Ayad Law, PLLC, and hereby make the following complaint:

**INTRODUCTION**

1. On November 6, 2018, Michiganders voted to amend the Michigan Constitution of 1963 to create the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (hereinafter "Defendant" or "the Commission").
2. The amendment added, in pertinent part, the following language to Michigan's Constitution:

(13) The commission shall abide by the following criteria in proposing and adopting each plan, in order of priority:

(a) Districts shall be of equal population as mandated by the United States constitution, and shall comply with the voting rights act and other federal laws.

...

(c) Districts shall reflect the state's diverse population and communities of interest. Communities of interest may include, but shall not be limited to, populations that share cultural or historical characteristics or economic interests. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

Mich Const 1963, art 4, §6(13)(a) and (c) (emphasis added).

3. After being created, the Commission has maintained that its mission and vision are:

**Mission:** To lead Michigan's redistricting process to assure Michigan's Congressional, State Senate, and State House district lines are drawn fairly in a citizen-led, transparent process, meeting Constitutional mandates.

**Vision:** To chart a positive course for elections based on fair maps for Michigan today and for the future.

(See <https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/0,10083,7-418-92033---,00.html>, last visited January 3, 2022, emphasis in original.)

4. This Supreme Court has already ruled that the Commission failed in its self-stated mission of 'transparency' when on December 20, 2021, it ruled that the Commission had violated Michigan's Open Meetings Act, and ordered the commission to make public the meetings they had been having in private.
5. On December 28, 2021, the Commission officially approved its redistricting maps (or "Plans") for the state of Michigan's Congressional, State Senate, and State House voting districts.
6. It is clear from the Commission's current proposed Plans that they will also be falling woefully short of their vision: "To chart a positive course for elections based on fair maps for Michigan today and for the future."

7. Pursuant to the Michigan Constitution of 1963, Article IV, Section 6(19) these Black Plaintiffs now challenge the three discriminatory and unlawful Plans of the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission.

### THE PARTIES

8. The Detroit Caucus is a group of Legislators from the Michigan House of Representatives that represent constituents within the City of Detroit.
9. The Romulus City Council is a legislative body of elected officials in the city of Romulus, MI.
10. The individual Plaintiffs are all, first and foremost, members of the Black community of Michigan and residents of Wayne County who stand to lose their ability to elect their chosen candidates into office:
  - a. The Detroit Caucus;
  - b. The Romulus City Council;
  - c. Dr. Carol Weaver, 14th Congressional District Executive Board Member, resident of Detroit, Michigan;
  - d. Former State Representative Wendell Byrd, resident of Detroit, Michigan; and
  - e. Darryl Woods, Resident of Wayne County.

11. Defendant Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (“MICRC”) is a permanent commission in the legislative branch of government. Const 1963, art 4, § 6(1).

### JURISDICTION

12. The Court has original subject-matter jurisdiction over this action under Article IV, Section 6(19), of the Michigan Constitution of 1963.

13. The Court also has subject-matter jurisdiction under Section 217(3) of the Revised Judicature Act, MCL 600.217(3), and Michigan Court Rules 3.301(A)(1)(c) and (g) and Michigan Court Rule 3.305(A)(2).
14. The Court has general personal jurisdiction over Plaintiffs under Section 701(3) of the Revised Judicature Act, MCL 600.701(3).
15. The Court has general personal jurisdiction over the Commission under Section 2051(4) of the Revised Judicature Act, MCL 600.2051(4).

### FACTUAL BACKGROUND

1. Michigan Redistricting Commission was sold to the Michigan voter as a means of reducing gerrymandering in the redistricting of Michigan's voter districts following the 2021 census. However, the idea of an impartial, non-discriminatory, non-racist redistricting plan has been shattered by the revelation of the Michigan Redistricting Commissions Plans.
2. The new US Congressional Plans, with their new voting district maps, were backed by only eight out of thirteen of the randomly selected voters who serve on the commission.
3. **Should the Plans for the US Congressional districts be adopted, it would completely eliminate the two majority-minority (Black) districts that currently run through the largest concentrated Black population in Michigan (Detroit). Instead, those districts would be apportioned into eight new districts comprised of eight small sections of the Black community in and around Detroit, each paired with a large section of a majority-non-Black suburb of Detroit (such as Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills).**
4. **Each of the new districts would then become majority-non-Black.**
5. **As non-Black voters tend to vote for non-Black candidates, Defendant's proposed US Congressional district Plans would reduce the chances of the Blacks of Michigan from getting one to two of their preferred US Congress candidates on the general election**

**ballot down to zero; effectively blocking representation at the federal level for Black's in Michigan.**

6. Similarly, Defendant's redistricting Plans would completely rob the Black minority of Michigan of its ability to elect their chosen representatives into the Michigan Senate, and halve the potential candidates they could elect to the Michigan House of Representatives.
7. This practice of splintering a majority-minority voter district is termed "dilution," is banned by the Michigan Constitution at article 4, §6(13)(a) and (c), and has long been banned by federal law pursuant to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
8. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was the first federal legislation to outlaw intimidation and other barriers to voting of African Americans and other racial minorities. Since that victory of the Civil Rights Movement, Black Americans have had the highest voting rate of any racial group in the nation.<sup>1</sup>
9. The Commission's redistricting is a blatant and obvious "retrogression" of the national and Michigan Civil Rights Movement and sets-back the Black population of Michigan generations by undoing the hard-fought representation achieved by the Black community in Michigan over the last 70 years.
10. As the United States Supreme Court has stated:

The maintenance of existing district boundaries is advantageous to both voters and candidates. Changes, of course, must be made after every census to equalize the population of each district or to accommodate changes in the size of a State's congressional delegation. Similarly, changes must be made in response to a finding that a districting plan violates § 2 or § 5 of the Voting Rights Act, [52 USC §§ 10301, 10304(b, d)]. But the interests in orderly campaigning and voting, as well as in maintaining communication between representatives and their constituents, underscore the importance of requiring that any decision to redraw district boundaries—**like any other state action that affects the electoral process—must, at the very least, serve some legitimate governmental purpose.** See, e.g., *Burdick v. Takushi*, 504 U.S. 428, 434, 440, 112 S.Ct. 2059, 119 L.Ed.2d 245 (1992);

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2017/05/voting\\_in\\_america.html](https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2017/05/voting_in_america.html)

id., at 448–450, 112 S.Ct. 2059 (KENNEDY, J., joined by Blackmun and STEVENS, JJ., dissenting).

*League of United Latin Am Citizens v Perry*, 548 US 399, 448; 126 S Ct 2594, 2626–27; 165 L Ed 2d 609 (2006) (emphasis added).

11. **Here, the destruction of Black voters' ability to elect their preferred representatives and/or minority candidates could serve no legitimate government purpose, and therefore, it violates Michigan Constitution, the United States Constitution, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.**
12. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Blacks make up 15.21% of the population of the state of Michigan, Blacks living in Detroit accounted for 79.1% of the total population, or approximately 532,425 people as of 2017 estimates.<sup>2</sup>
13. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, of all U.S. cities with 100,000 or more people, Detroit had the second-highest percentage of Black people.<sup>3</sup>
14. Biden won the city of Detroit with 94% of the vote while Trump received 5%, according to the city of Detroit's election results.<sup>4</sup>
15. Yet statewide in Michigan, Biden defeated Trump by merely 50.6% to 47.9% (voter turnout was 71%).
16. These numbers make undeniably clear that the Black population of Michigan is a community of interest which has its own preferred political candidates and which, when districts are mapped fairly, has the power to elect the representatives of their choice.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/detroitcitymichigan,mi/PST045217>

<sup>3</sup> [Race and Ethnicity in the Tri-County Area: Selected Communities and School Districts](#); See also [From a Child's Perspective: Detroit Metropolitan Census 2000 Fact Sheets Series](#). Wayne State University. June 2002. Volume 2, Issue 2. p. 1. Retrieved on November 10, 2013.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/elections/2020/11/06/joe-biden-detroit-michigan-vote-election-2020/6168971002/>

17. Michigan voters supported establishing an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission in 2018 on the premise it would eliminate “gerrymandering” in the creation of legislative and congressional districts in the State.
18. Initially, the Independent Redistricting Commission stated that they would work to develop fair, non-partisan leaning legislative and congressional districts. Secondly, and more strongly, the Commission indicated they would respect and protect communities of interest.
19. From review of their draft plans, it is clear that the Commission has failed in both of these regards.
20. The largest community of interest in Michigan is the Black population.
21. Republicans are not a community of interest. Mich Const 1963, art 4, §6(13)(c).
22. Democrats are not a community of interest. Mich Const 1963, art 4, §6(13)(c).<sup>5</sup>
23. Although the Commission indicated they planned to protect communities of interest, they produced a US Congressional Plan that divided Detroit into eight pieces.
24. Of those eight pieces, not one district as a whole contained Michigan's largest Black populous, the City of Detroit, but instead, sections of Detroit's Black community are apportioned to other, majority-White polities including: Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham, Canton, Farmington, Madison Heights, New Baltimore, Sterling Heights, and Clinton Township.
25. The redistricting plans of the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission are bipartisan **racial** gerrymandering which, if implemented, would unlawfully reduce the voting power of minority racial groups to elect the candidate of their choosing.

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<sup>5</sup> It is highly important to note here that for purposes of voting district boundaries, compliance with the Michigan Constitution and federal law requires consideration of data from primary elections (which Defendant did not use), not general elections, as not every Democrat candidate is/was the Black community's preferred candidate in the primaries.

26. The reduction of majority-minority districts from the plans previously adopted in 2011 can be plainly seen by the results of the redistricting on the representation of Black voters and the citizens of City of Detroit.

*Examples of Retrogression: 2011 to 2021<sup>6</sup>*

*27. Congressional Map*

- 2011 Current Map contains 2 (two) majority Black districts
- 2021 Plans contain 0 (zero) majority Black districts

*28. State Senate Map*

- 2011 Current map contain 4 (four) majority Black districts
- 2021 Plans contain 0 (zero) majority Black districts

*29. State House Map*

- 2011 Current map contains 12 (twelve majority) Black districts
- 2021 Plans contain 6 (six) majority Black districts

30. Defendant's current proposed plans have been denounced by an entire department of the government of Michigan, in that the Michigan Department of Civil Rights released a memorandum stating and showing that the proposed maps of Defendant unlawfully dilute the voting power of Blacks in the state of Michigan. See **Exhibit A, Michigan Department of Civil Rights December 9, 2021 Memorandum: Analysis of MICRC's Proposed Maps.**

31. An expert hired by Defendant also admits that they were lacking the proper data regarding Black voters in Michigan when they drew up the Plans: "Lisa Handley, one of the

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<sup>6</sup> Exhibit A, Michigan Department of Civil Rights December 9, 2021 Memorandum: Analysis of MICRC's Proposed Maps.



commission's experts... noted a lack of data to discern how Black candidates may be affected by white voters in primaries, which decide many races."<sup>7</sup>

32. That data was obtainable, and was absolutely necessary to the Commission in order for it to be able to comply with the Michigan Constitution and federal law, as even the law of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 requires the map-makers to consider certain datapoints that Defendant apparently did not have.
33. In fact, Defendant attempted to extend their deadline to submit their final Plans multiple times, and cited as one reason that they lacked the data required to properly fulfil their legislative purpose.<sup>8</sup>
34. The commission complained that they were fighting.
35. Defendant never published the guidelines, protocols, and procedures that it used in formulating its Plans and, it is clear from the claims of their own expert of the lack of required data, that they did not use the necessary guidelines, protocols, and procedures in creating their current Plans.
36. The current proposed plans, which almost completely politically silence the Black community of interest, could be easily remedied in short order.
37. Owing to the current Plans boundaries surrounding the largest concentration of Blacks in the state of Michigan (the Detroit area), each of the three Plans could have their district borders in and around Detroit tweaked just a relatively small amount in a way that would completely undue the Defendant's dilution of the Black vote in Michigan while leaving the rest of the Plans 100% intact.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/michigan/articles/2022-01-03/black-lawmakers-to-sue-to-block-michigan-redistricting-maps>

<sup>8</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/redistricting-census-2020-government-and-politics-health-michigan-47512ce8963ac0097a9139dca98fa2a3>

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38. Throughout the redistricting process, the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission has been opaque with the public in regards to its compliance with the Voting Rights Act, in contravention of its mandate under the Michigan Constitution to perform its “duties in a manner that is impartial and reinforces public confidence in the integrity of the redistricting process. The commission shall conduct all of its business at open meetings.” Mich. Const. Art. 4, § 6(10).

39. In fact, this honorable Court recently ruled that a recording of MICRC’s October 27, 2021 meeting, during which two (2) memoranda were discussed involving the proposed maps compliance with the Voting Rights Act, must be disclosed to the public because the meeting involved the development of the redistricting map.<sup>9</sup>

40. This court further ruled that seven (7) additional memoranda out of 10 must be disclosed to the public as “supporting materials” under Const 1963, art 4, § 6(9).<sup>10</sup>

**COUNT I**  
**Violation of Mich Const 1963, art 4, §6(13)(a) and (c):**  
**Dilution of Minority Voting Power**

41. Plaintiffs reallege the prior paragraphs as if restated fully hereunder.

42. The Michigan Constitution of 1963 provides:

(13) The commission shall abide by the following criteria in proposing and adopting each plan, in order of priority:

(a) Districts shall be of equal population as mandated by the United States constitution, and shall comply with the **voting rights act [of 1965]** and other federal laws.

Mich Const 1963, art 4, §6(13)(a) (emphasis added).

43. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 holds, in pertinent part:

No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision

<sup>9</sup> Mich Sup. Ct. Docket No. 163823

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

in a manner which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color...

52 USC § 10301.

44. In determining whether the Voting Rights Act statute has been violated, this Court follows "the guidance of the United States Supreme Court, [as] stated in *Thornburg v. Gingles*, 478 U.S. 30, 43–46, 106 S.Ct. 2752, 2762–2764, 92 L.Ed.2d 25 (1986)..." *In re Apportionment of State Legislature-1992*, 439 Mich 715, 735; 486 NW2d 639, 650 (1992).
45. In *Thornburg v. Gingles*, 478 U.S. 30, 43–46, 106 S.Ct. 2752, 2762–2764, 92 L.Ed.2d 25 (1986), Supreme Court of the United States has held that a successful Section 2 vote dilution claim has two components. First, a plaintiff must satisfy three preconditions by showing: (1) that the minority group is "sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single-member district": (2) that the minority group is "politically cohesive": and (3) that bloc voting by other members of the electorate usually defeats the minority-preferred candidates. Satisfaction of these three preconditions is necessary but not sufficient to establish liability. Second, "[i]f these three preconditions are met, the district court must then examine a variety of other factors to determine whether, under the totality of the circumstances, the challenged practice impairs the ability of the minority voters to participate equally in the political process and to elect a representative of their choice." As stated in *Gingles*, 478 U.S. at 36-37, additional "objective factors" used in determining the "totality of circumstances" surrounding an alleged violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act include (but are not limited to) the extent to which the members of the minority group bear the effects of discrimination in areas like education, employment, and health, which hinder effective participation, is one measure.

46. (1) The Black citizens of the City of Detroit are a minority group that is “sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single-member district” as its population is 77.7% Black as per the 2020 census.
47. (2) The Black citizens of the City of Detroit are “politically cohesive” as is shown by their voting record where Detroit Black persons account for 79.1% of the total population of Detroit.<sup>11</sup> Biden won the city of Detroit with 94% of the vote while Trump received 5%.<sup>12</sup> Yet statewide in Michigan voter turnout was 71% and Biden defeated Trump by merely 50.6% to 47.9%, meaning that it was the Detroit Black community who, voting as a cohesive group, won the Presidential election for President Joseph Biden in this State and, potentially, the Country.
48. (3) Bloc voting by other members of the electorate usually defeats the minority-preferred candidates: Until the 1954 election of Charles Diggs in the old 15th District (13th today) followed by the election of John Conyers 10 years later in 1964 in the old 1st District (14th today) Detroit’s majority-minority community could not elect a Congressional candidate of their choice.
49. The Black citizens of the City of Detroit bear the effects of discrimination in the area of education:
- f. In the city of Detroit the majority of the residents in the suburb area are predominantly White, while in the actual city majority of the residents are Black.<sup>13</sup>
  - g. As of the mid-2000's, school funding per pupil in Wayne County (where Detroit is located) was approximately \$930.33, the lowest in the State. The second highest

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/detroitcitymichigan,mi/PST045217>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/elections/2020/11/06/joe-biden-detroit-michigan-vote-election-2020/6168971002/>

<sup>13</sup> Checkoway, Barry; Lipa, Todd; Vivyan, Erika; Zurvalec, Sue (2017). "Engaging Suburban Students in Dialogues on Diversity in a Segregated Metropolitan Area". *Education and Urban Society*. Sage Journals. 49 (4): 388–402.

was \$1,239.47 per pupil, in Macomb County, almost 50% more than that of Wayne County and far below the average for Southeastern Michigan of \$1,807.17.<sup>14</sup>

- h. Detroit public schools have high illiteracy rates and low academic performance compared to cities across the United States, with Detroit "eighth graders scor[ing the] lowest in math and reading in the nation."<sup>15</sup>
- i. According to the National Institute for Literacy, 47% (200,000) of adults in Detroit are functionally illiterate, and half of the 200,000 adults do not have a high school diploma or GED, showing that the lack of these skills learned in an academic setting is generationally embedded into different groups of society.

50. The Black citizens of the City of Detroit bear the effects of discrimination in the area of employment:

- j. Detroiters have a lower employment rate compared to others living in Wayne County and those in neighboring counties such as Macomb and Oakland. In July 2020, unemployment in Detroit reached nearly 40 percent.<sup>16</sup> This is much higher than the national unemployment average of even The Great Depression nearly a century ago.<sup>17</sup>
- k. As of 2016, Detroit's poverty rate was 35.7%, with a median household income of just over \$28,000.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>14</sup> D., Rollandini, Mark. Michigan intermediate school districts: funding and resource allocation. p. 22.

<sup>15</sup> Rosenbaum, Mark (2018-01-30), The Miseducation of America, Center for Political Studies (CPS).

<sup>16</sup> Wileden, Lydia. 2020. "employment Dynamics in Detroit During the COVID-19 Pandemic." Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan. <https://detroitssurvey.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Unemployment-August-2020.pdf>.

<sup>17</sup> Rashawn Ray, Jane Fran Morgan, Lydia Wileden, Samantha Elizondo, and Destiny Wiley-Yancy; Examining and Addressing COVID-19 Racial Disparities in Detroit; The Brookings Institution, p. 14.

<sup>18</sup> Williams, Corey (14 September 2017). "Census Figures Show Drop in Detroit Poverty Rate". U.S. News.

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51. The Black citizens of the City of Detroit bear the effects of discrimination in the area of health:

- l. Because of the legacies of underinvestment, redlining, jobs without benefits, poor or nonexistent and culturally incompetent health care, Black residents are less likely to be able to transcend the challenges presented by COVID-19 and are more likely to contract and die from the virus.<sup>19</sup>
- m. In Detroit, Black people represent a comparable over 75 percent of known COVID-19 diagnoses by race, yet account for a disproportionate nearly 90 percent of deaths.

*Id.*

52. Therefore, according to the analysis handed down in *Thornburg v. Gingles*, 478 U.S. 30, 43–46, 106 S.Ct. 2752, 2762–2764, 92 L.Ed.2d 25 (1986), the redistricting Plans approved by Defendant violate the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 USC § 10301) by implementing impermissible dilution of the Black vote in Michigan. As the Plans violate the Voting Rights Act, they also violate the Michigan Constitution at article 4, §6(13)(a) and (c).

**COUNT II**  
**Declaratory Action**

53. Plaintiffs reallege the prior paragraphs as if restated fully hereunder.

54. The Court has the power to enter declaratory judgments. MCR 2.605(A)(1).

55. A case of actual controversy exists between these parties as Plaintiffs will imminently have their rights under the Michigan Constitution, the United States Constitution, and federal law (the Voting Rights Act of 1965) violated and be effectively completely disenfranchised.

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<sup>19</sup> Rashawn Ray, Jane Fran Morgan, Lydia Wileden, Samantha Elizondo, and Destiny Wiley-Yancy; Examining and Addressing COVID-19 Racial Disparities in Detroit; The Brookings Institution, p. 1.

56. Guidance is needed by the Court to assist the parties in their conduct going forwards, so that Plaintiffs and the entire Black community of Michigan do not suffer the egregious and inexcusable injury of being racially discriminated against, disenfranchised, and having their legal, political, and civil rights eroded in one fell swoop.
57. The case in controversy is within the jurisdiction of this Court as, were the rights at issue violated, this Court would have original jurisdiction to hear causes of action arising out of those violations pursuant to Mich Const 1963, art 4, §6(19).
58. Specifically, Plaintiff requests a declaration from this Court that Defendant's proposed Michigan's Congressional, State Senate, and State House district voter districts Plans are unconstitutional and unlawful as they do not comport with the requirements of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Michigan Constitution of 1963, article 4, §6(13)(a)-(c).

### CONCLUSION AND RELIEF REQUESTED

The new voting district maps drawn by the Commission will thwart the Black Civil Rights Movement that this nation is famous for; that this nation is proud of. Should this Court not stop the Defendant from implementing their Plans, the Black voters of Michigan will be cast backwards in time to the days before Civil Rights heroes like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks led the fight for the representation that the Black community of Michigan currently has. The community of interest that is the Detroit Black community, will go from one that can unite to become powerful enough to win the United States presidency for their chosen candidate to one that cannot even elect state congress persons and senators; no matter what their voter turnout.

Under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and therefore, the Michigan Constitution, it does not matter what the intentions of Defendant's members were, only what the effects of their redistricting will be. The effects are clear: By breaking the majority-Black US Congressional districts into eight voter districts from its previous two voter districts, it will dilute the vote of the Black community

in Michigan into meaninglessness. Similarly, the Plans for the Michigan Senate and Michigan House of Representatives inexcusably reduce the ability of Black voters to be represented in this state and nationally. The Michigan Legislature was able to create voting districts with majority-Black districts in 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010. Defendant's Plan for the US Congressional districts, the number of majority Black districts would be reduced from two to zero; under the State Senate Plans, from four to zero; and under the State House Plans, from twelve to six. That is a total of 18 majority-minority districts reduced to just six. In 1980, 1990, and 2000, partisan Michigan legislatures were able to draw up Plans which gave consideration (and majority-Black districts) to Michigan's Black community and there is no reason that the newly created should not have done the same.

The Commission was supposedly created to assure that the Voter Rights Act of 1965 was not violated. Unfortunately, that is exactly what is happening here. As the Voter Rights Act assures that majority-minority districts are not to be diluted in newly redrawn districts so that minority communities cannot elect their candidates of choice. This map falls far short of such mandates under the Voter Rights Act and, if this Court does not act decisively to curb Defendant's ill-made Plans, then Black Michiganders, and the Black community everywhere, will suffer an egregious and despicable injury. As the late Martin Luther King, Jr. one said: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." This Honorable Court should act swiftly to save the State of Michigan from the shame and embarrassment that will be associated with Defendant's redistricting Plans.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests that this Honorable Court enter judgement in their favor against Defendant and issue an order containing the following relief:

- a) Declaring that Defendant's currently proposed redistricting plans violate the Michigan Constitution of 1963, art 4, §6(13)(a) and (c) and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by impermissibly diluting the Black voting power in Michigan;



- b) Declaring that Defendant's currently proposed redistricting plans violate the Michigan Constitution of 1963, art 4, §6(13)(a) and (c) and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by impermissibly retrogressing the voting power of the Black community in Michigan;
- c) Ordering that Defendant be required to redraw their redistricting plans in accordance with the Michigan Constitution of 1963, art 4, §6(13)(a) and (c) the order of this Court;
- d) Awarding reasonable attorneys fees pursuant to Michigan Constitution of 1963, art 4, §6(5), (13)(a), and 52 U.S.C. § 10310(e); and
- e) Any and all such other relief that this Court deems just and equitable including any tolling of limitations periods necessary to accomplish justice.

Respectfully submitted;

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Dated: January 5, 2022

*Verifications on following pages.*

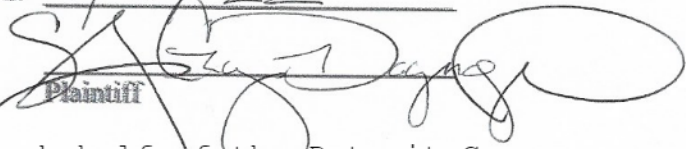
VERIFICATION

I declare under the penalties of perjury that this Complaint has been examined by me and that its contents are true to the best of my information, knowledge, and belief.

Executed on:

1/5/22

Signed:



Plaintiff

And on behalf of the Detroit Caucus.

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**VERIFICATION**

I declare under the penalties of perjury that this Complaint has been examined by me and that its contents are true to the best of my information, knowledge, and belief.

Executed on: 01/05/2022

Signed: *Virginia Wilkins*, Vice Chair  
Plaintiff

On behalf of Romulus City Council

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WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests that this Honorable Court enter judgement in his favor against Defendant and issue an order containing the following relief:

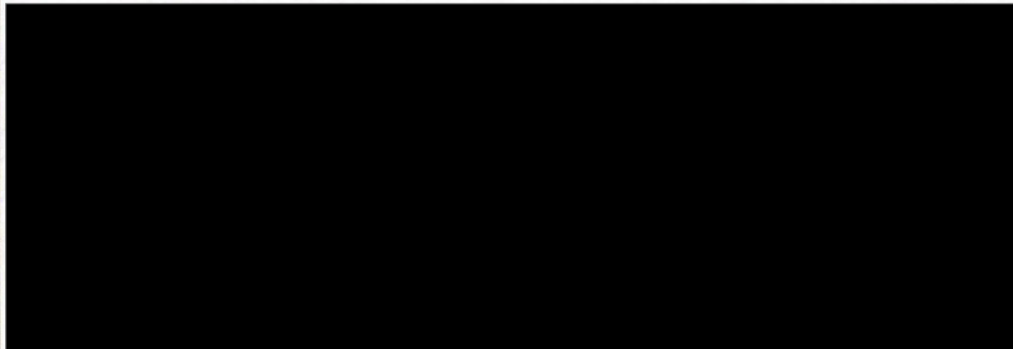
- a) Declaring that Defendant's currently proposed redistricting plans violate the Michigan Constitution of 1963, art 4, §6(13)(a) and (c) and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by impermissibly diluting the City of Detroit and majority Black votes of Detroiters;
- b) Declaring that Defendant's currently proposed redistricting plans violate the Michigan Constitution of 1963, art 4, §6(13)(a) and (c) and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by impermissibly retrogressing the voting power of Blacks of the City of Detroit;
- c) Ordering that Defendant be required to redraw their redistricting plans in accordance with the Michigan Constitution of 1963, art 4, §6(13)(a) and (c) and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the order of this Court; and
- d) Any and all such other relief that this Court deems just and equitable including any tolling of limitations periods necessary to accomplish justice.

**VERIFICATION**

I have read the attached verified complaint and to the best of my knowledge, recollection, and belief, its contents are true, accurate, and correct.

Executed on: January 5, 2022

Signed: *Jenisha Gancy*  
Plaintiff



VERIFICATION

I declare under the penalties of perjury that this Complaint has been examined by me and that its contents are true to the best of my information, knowledge, and belief.

Executed on: 1/3/2022

Signed: Carol Heane  
Plaintiff

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Wendell L. Bryant

JAN 5, 2022

VERIFICATION

I declare under the penalties of perjury that this Complaint has been examined by me and that its contents are true to the best of my information, knowledge, and belief.

Executed on: January 5, 2022

Signed: Darwyn Woods  
Plaintiff

AYAD LAW, P.L.L.C.  
645 Griswold St., Ste. 2202  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226  
P: (313) 883-4600 | F: (313) 883-4665

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this date I filed the foregoing paper and any attachments with the Clerk of Courts for the Michigan Supreme Court using the MiFile electronic filing system.

Respectfully submitted;

AYAD LAW, PLLC

*/s/Nabih H. Ayad*

Nabih H. Ayad (P59518)

William D. Savage (P82146)

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Dated: January 5, 2022

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