

**Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission**  
**July 1, 2021 Meeting Public Comment**

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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 11:45 AM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Gerald D Lester  
**Subject:** Supporting your efforts

As a 75-year old 37 year resident of Comstock Park, Michigan, all I ask is that your work eliminate the obvious "gerrymandering" of districts that chops up areas to keep one party in power. Please advise when you will be meeting in West Michigan. I am a Democrat, and we are used to having Republican local government, which is fine if that is what the immediate area wants.

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Dave Lester  
[REDACTED]  
Comstock Park, MI 49321  
[REDACTED]

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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 11:13 AM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Linda Cook MacDonald  
**Subject:** Comment on meeting process

Thank you. My comment concerns the meeting process itself, and not a comment presently on the districts. The current website indicates that I can email the [redistricting@michigan.gov](mailto:redistricting@michigan.gov) which I had assumed was for general comment related, perhaps only to regular meetings. I am watching today's meeting and appreciated Commissioner Clark sharing the chart he has drafted. There is usually no screen sharing by the commissioners UNLESS there is a presentation from a Vendor. It is hard to follow what the commissioners are discussing when the documents they may have developed are not visible in real time.

So my question is this: Is there only one portal now for ALL comments whether related directly to redistricting PLANS as opposed to a particular meeting process?

Thank you.  
Linda MacDonald  
Mattawan, MI

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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 9:17 AM

**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Vicky Rigney  
**Subject:** Fair Lines

Dear Commissioners,  
This Vicky Rigney I live in Gaylord Michigan at 2346 Deepwoods Dr

I want to thank the Commissioners for the time and attention they are dedicating to this important issue.

My comments are simple. For years district lines have been drawn by politicians and organizations that have a single political view. The communities should have a greater role in drawing lines. The group drawing lines should not have any one political view. The communities should have a say in drawing the lines.

Vicky Rigney

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**Date of Submission:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 8:31 PM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Susan Smith  
**Subject:** LWVMI Comments re MICRC Map Drawing Process

June 29, 2021

Commissioners.

I'm Susan Smith, Vice President for Advocacy for the League of Women Voters of Michigan.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

I have watched most of your meetings and Public Hearings since last September.

This past Friday and Monday, I observed meetings of the Redistricting Process Subcommittee.

The Committee discussed a number of issues, one of which was whether to start from scratch when drawing the new maps or to start with the current district maps and adjust them.

As you may know, in 2017, the League of Women Voters of Michigan was the lead Plaintiff in a lawsuit against the Secretary of State, claiming that 34 Congressional and Legislative district maps were unconstitutional because of partisan gerrymandering.

Expert witnesses used three methods to measure the partisan fairness of those 34 districts. All 34 district maps failed all three partisan fairness measures.

The case was tried in the Eastern District Federal Court before a three-Judge panel.

All three Judges agreed that indeed the 34 district maps were unconstitutional because they were the result of partisan gerrymandering.

It is of great concern to the League of Women Voters that the MICRC would consider starting with gerrymandered maps.

We urge you to start from scratch when drawing the new maps for the U.S. Congress, the Michigan Senate and the Michigan House.

Thank you.

Susan Smith  
League of Women Voters of Michigan

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**Date of Submission:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 1:32 PM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Carol Voigts  
**Subject:** Grand Rapids Redistricting meeting on 07/01

As an 80 year old. , I have watched the every 10 year redistricting. I have long felt the rules were totally irrational and too political

I would like to see the redistricting every 10 years done by neither party but by a panel of non political entities while also looking at the population changes in the district according to the 10 yr Census..

It should be done also looking at the similarity and homogeneity of the district too.

Carol Voigts  


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**Date of Submission:** Monday, June 28, 2021 2:15 PM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Dale Zurakowski  
**Subject:** Grand Rapids Redistricting meeting on 07/01  
**\*Attachments at end of document\***

Here are the two attachments I have.

“Letter proposing solution to solving gerrymandering” is the attachment containing what I was going to present at Grand Rapids on 07/01

“Redistricting Possible Solution” is the attachment of my spreadsheet.

Some information that you might want to know about the Excel document.

- 1) There are 4 sheets in the document. The three of most interest are:
  - a) Mi House Calculations
  - b) Mi Senate Calculations
  - c) US House Calculations
- 2) The cells that contain formulas are protected so they will not be inadvertently overwritten.
- 3) Column B contains the 2010 populations for each county. Column B is not protected.
- 4) Cell F2 contains the number of seats available. Each of the 3 sheets listed above, obviously have a different number in cell F2. Cell F2 is not protected.
- 5) Column G accumulates the population of all townships above the row you are looking at.
- 6) Cell F3 contains how many residents will be in each district. As you scroll thru the rows, you will see a population number in Column G in the row where a multiple of Cell F3 is matched. As an example, the first Mi House seat will be filled in Row 54 (Champion Township of Marquette County)

You can experiment with the population count, for any or all counties, in Column B. Every time the count changes, it will cause several other changes. The total population in Cell B2 will change. The number of residents for each district will change. That number is located in Cell F3. If you modify population changes in the Mi House Calculation sheet, Row 54 as described in 6) above will probably not be where the first seat will be filled. (depending on great the increase or decrease you make the population change)

There are TWO ITEMS in the sheets that deviate from my presentation.

- 1) The sheet is set up to go thru the townships from North to South and East to West. HOWEVER, I have not ordered the townships in the locations where they actually reside. I ran into some difficulty with some of the counties in finding the townships. Maybe a different map would have helped me.
- 2) I could not find the population for all of the townships. I am sure it is somewhere, but I don't know where. How I populated each township was to divide the number of residents in each county by the number of townships in that county.

It sounds complicated when first reading it. I will be more than happy to talk with anyone to help them through it. I strongly believe that using townships for districting will remove the possibly of gerrymandering.

Dale Zurakowski

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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I have put quite a bit of time into thinking of a solution to the gerrymandering dilemma and want to share my thoughts for a solution to the issue.

The process I am proposing will require the program to be run 3 times. One time to determine Districts for the Michigan House, once to determine Districts for the Michigan Senate and once to determine Districts for the U.S. Senate.

The major premise I am suggesting is the use of townships to determine boundaries. Most of the townships are 6 square miles. There are over 1200 townships in Michigan. Thus, many townships may need to be combined in order to build a district. Fewer townships will be needed to build a district in such populated counties as Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Kent, etc.

My thought of determining the required districts is as follows. I propose to start at the northwest part of the Upper Peninsula and work downward. When at the bottom of the Upper Peninsula, move east and proceed northward. Repeat this process until the Upper Peninsula has been covered. In this manner each district will have a similar geometrical shape as the other districts.

Treating the Lower Peninsula would continue where the Upper Peninsula left off. I would start at the Northern tip of the Lower Peninsula and again work west to east. At the eastern part of the state, I would drop down and move back west.

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In order to keep the populations consistent across districts it may be necessary to split a township into two or more quadrants. The population by townships is available already and I am sure the state of Michigan would be able to have a computer program developed to supply the population by quadrant, no matter what the size of the quadrant was.

Quadrants, within a township, would be important for townships with larger populations. However, using the same directional approach of west to east and then dropping south to the next quadrant would keep the districts as uniformly contiguous as possible.

A computer program developed in this manner could be used every 10 years after a census was taken. It would need to be updated with the number of House and Senate members that were required in Michigan as well as the House in the U.S. The population grid for each township would also need to be updated.

This method would provide a symmetrical layout of districts that removes politics from the process.

Communities of Interest have been mentioned for this process. While they provide benefits for communities, they should not be permitted to alter the district maps for House and Senate elections. If used to alter district maps, that would begin to erode the maps and once again introduce gerrymandering.

Sincerely,

o

Dale Zurakowski