

***Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission  
August 19, 2021 Meeting Public Comment***

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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 10:33 AM

**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>

**Name:** Freeman Willard Gregory

**Subject:** Protect the independence of Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Dear Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission,

In 2018, the people of Michigan voted for an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to ensure a fair redistricting process.

I believe that independence will be severely undermined if the commission moves forward with hiring the law firm BakerHostetler. This firm has a history of defending extreme partisan gerrymanders.


We need to protect the independence of our state's commission and redistricting process, and that absolutely can't happen if the MICRC hires BakerHostetler for litigation counsel services.

I'm urging Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to protect the independence of our commission by hiring an independent, nonpartisan law firm instead.

Michigan voters asked for an independent commission to protect our maps and we won that battle back in 2018. Now it's imperative that we do everything in our power to safeguard that independence.

I hope the commission takes these steps to ensure the people that the redistricting process is fair.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Freeman Gregory  
Lake Orion, MI 48360  


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**Date of Submission:** Tuesday, August 17, 2021 2:31 PM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** Lisa Hathaway  
**Subject:** Certified Resolution – Decennial Redistricting

**\*Attachment included at end of document\***

Hello,

Please see the attached Certified Resolution adopted at last night's City Council meeting.

Thank you,

Lisa Kay Hathaway, MiPMC-3/MMC

City Clerk/F.O.I.A. Coordinator

City of Grosse Pointe Woods

[REDACTED]

Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**Date of Submission:** Sunday, August 15, 2021 9:52 PM

**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>

**Name:** Straight-jacket

**Subject:** Protect the independence of Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Dear Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission,

In 2018, the people of Michigan voted for an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to ensure a fair redistricting process.

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Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Horein

Paw Paw, MI 49079

[REDACTED]

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**Date of Submission:** Sunday, August 15, 2021 9:51 PM

**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>

**Name:** Straight-jacket

**Subject:** Protect the independence of Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Dear Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission,

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Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Michael Horein  
Paw Paw, MI 49079  
[REDACTED]

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**Date of Submission:** Friday, August 13, 2021 8:01 PM

**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>

**Name:** Dafisk

**Subject:** Protect the independence of Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Dear Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission,

In 2018, the people of Michigan voted for an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to ensure a fair redistricting process.

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Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Darlene Allen  
Farmington, MI 48336  
[REDACTED]

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**Date of Submission:** Friday, August 13, 2021 9:42 AM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>  
**Name:** James  
**Subject:** RE: Pubic Comment – 8.12 Redistricting Meeting

Good Morning Sarah (and members of the committee potentially reading this),

It is with apologies that I could not speak at the public hearing. I had signed in by telephone by instruction below, but unfortunately, for whatever reason, the clerk was apparently unable to see my attempts to get attention with my prompts as instructed by the software as directed.

Had intended to be on via Zoom, but like too many SE MI residents, we were hit by the power outage and I could not forward the Zoom link to my phone so I tried to contact via phone. – Which gives ammunition to my wife in her arguments urging me to switch to gmail J So there it is.

In brief commentary here, I had concurred with most provided yesterday (at least during initial comment period at beginning of meeting). I am including it as a matter of record.

I am obviously disappointed that the Commission chose to retain the firm that responded to the RFP. However, I hope at this point the Commission, short of reconsideration, will do their due diligence and review of their selected vendor in their work moving forward.

At any rate, my thanks to the Commission for this courtesy, and again my apologies in “missing” the meeting.

Respectfully,’

-James

James D’Amour  
[REDACTED]

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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**Date of Submission:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 8:53 PM  
**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>

**Name:** Dianemyrold

**Subject:** Protect the independence of Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Dear Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission,

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Thank you.

Sincerely,  
diane myrold  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
[REDACTED]

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**Date of Submission:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 5:38 PM

**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>

**Name:** James Thrall

**Subject:** Law Firm

Please consider your mission and reputation for non-partisanship as you consider hiring a law firm. I'm not representing any political party in this request. I testified in person and have submitted a map that coincided with my testimony but now feel my public input was probably in vain. My understanding is that you are now hiring a law firm to advise the commission and work with the defense of any law suits concerning the new maps that is:

A. Has as it's Major Partner Braden who served as chief counsel for the Republican National Committee (Firm's title - "E. Braden and BakerHosteler Law Firm")

B. Law firm's redistricting experience "consists of representing and defending the most egregiously gerrymandered maps in the nation" Quote from David Daley author and researcher who has written extensively on the U.S. redistricting process.

C. David Daley and others have considered this law firm - "The most partisan election law firm in Washington D.C."

The officials of "Voters Not Politicians", the group behind the ballot initiative and prompted the commission's creation expected non-partisanship efforts. When I appeared before the commission I hoped for the same result. Hiring this law firm will destroy any consideration of non-partisanship. In my 27 years as a Superintendent of a Public School there were times that we rebid projects in order to satisfy our objectives. Often we had to seek out firms not initially interested and did not settle for low bid. Please to let the public know you are fulfilling the ballot's initiative - SEEK out other bids not tarnished with political connections or biases already demonstrated.

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**Date of Submission:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 9:51 AM

**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>

**Name:** Rebkenny

**Subject:** Protect the independence of Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

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Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Royal Oak, MI 48073  


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**Date of Submission:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 9:02 AM

**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>

**Name:** Knminmi

**Subject:** Protect the independence of Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

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Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Karen Flores  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
[REDACTED]

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**Date of Submission:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 6:43 AM

**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>

**Name:** Cathy Sayre

**Subject:** Litigation Counsel

We the people worked hard to have fair lines drawn by passing the carefully designed Proposal 2. We need to protect the integrity of this process by ensuring that the firm representing the MICRC does not have a strong partisan bias. PLEASE reopen the RFP for litigation counsel.

Michigander  
Cathy Sayre  
5059 Boyd Dr, Pinckney 48169  
[REDACTED]

she/her/hers

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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, August 11, 2021 10:33 PM

**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>

**Name:** Callmej13

**Subject:** Protect the independence of Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Dear Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission,

In 2018, the people of Michigan voted for an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to ensure a fair redistricting process.

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Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

[REDACTED]

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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, August 11, 2021 5:20 PM

**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>

**Name:** Charlie Beall

**Subject:** Submitted written public comment for MICRC meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Please see attached PDF.

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Charlie Beall (he/him/his)  
Digital & Targeting Director  
Schedule an Appointment  
votersnotpoliticians.com

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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, August 11, 2021 5:15 PM

**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>

**Name:** Briannamsham

**Subject:** Protect the independence of Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Dear Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission,

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Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brianna Shamsuddoha

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

[REDACTED]

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**Date of Submission:** Wednesday, August 11, 2021 3:39 PM

**Method of Submission:** Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>

**Name:** Mary Jo DuRivage

**Subject:** Choosing a litigation firm – please solicit more proposals from nonpartisan law firms

Dear MICRC Commissioners,

I write concerning the possibility of the Commission hiring E. Mark Biden and BakerHostetler law firm as the counsel to deal with legal challenges that may be taken against the Commission's Congressional and state legislative district maps.

From what I have read, this particular law firm is one of the most partisan law firms in Washington, having defended in the past political maps drawn by Republicans and subsequently found unconstitutional by the courts.

I urge the Commission to be very judicious in its hiring process of counsel to deal with legal challenges. It has been stated that only this one law firm responded to the call for such a law firm.

There has to be a way to solicit more proposals, from qualified and experienced law firms that do not have the baggage of having defended partisan gerrymandering.

We are not talking about a city contract for snow removal. All eyes are on the Commission members whom we expect to aim high and continue to build the public's trust during its important and historic journey.

As I have heard so many times from individual members, you must be transparent and avoid any possible perception that the Commission is not 100% nonpartisan.

I wish you luck in solving this issue and I hope the result is a different law firm which will be able to do the job and not be associated with obvious partisan concerns.

Mary Jo Durivage

[REDACTED]

Dearborn MI 48124

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

August 11, 2021

**To the members of Michigan's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission:**

Voters Not Politicians drafted the constitutional amendment that created the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission and that guides its overall operation with one major goal in mind: Creating a non-partisan solution to end gerrymandering that would avoid even the appearance of conflicts of interest and partisan bias.

The commission has done a good job of living up to that goal in selecting staff and consultants. But we are now very concerned that the possible selection of BakerHostetler as litigation counsel will undermine all of the work you have done to build the public's trust.

The news media and BakerHostetler's own submission show that this firm has a long history of standing on the wrong side of redistricting -- by defending the same extreme partisan gerrymandering that politicians in Michigan used to rig our elections for decades. That cannot be ignored. Yet somehow they are now being considered to take on the role of the legal champions that all Michigan voters will count on to defend our first ever, citizen-drawn maps.

As you know, the redistricting amendment, and the existence of the commission itself, has been relentlessly attacked in court and in the media, by politicians and special interest groups that relied on gerrymandering to keep themselves in power. In fact, we are still in active litigation. We have no doubt the same groups will be fighting to undermine the maps you draw. BakerHostetler has a long track record of working alongside those very groups. The actual conflict of interest here, or at the very least the appearance of one, is obvious.

Let me add, we would be having the same concern if this was a firm with a reputation for representing the other party and their legislative gerrymandering. This is a position of principle, not of party.

Optics are important, and the trust of citizens is paramount. We urge you to take the time to find attorneys that, unlike this firm, have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to protecting voters and to upholding the values that are inherent in the redistricting amendment: fairness, impartiality, and transparency.

Bottom line: There is no hurry here. Take your time. Now that this issue has gained national attention, there are other firms that are aware of this opportunity. If you need to rework the RFP, do so.

Thank you.

Nancy Wang  
Executive Director, Voters Not Politicians

Dear Sir;

I will not wear face mask even I had the shot  
you should show it ~~now~~ <sup>even</sup> you had it write your name  
on a paper so they sit even for file, what about the  
mail I sent out never got it you better do something  
before they loss they job's they can't answer the phone  
any more this is going on I want to know were  
it went, I fill out sent it back through the  
mail never got it, You are not doing your job's  
right and I mean it to.

Miss Dail Sawatke

[REDACTED]  
Saginaw, Mich 48609

The Got Rent up they are not doing  
anything in side around all I see in here,  
our trailer park is up for sale again what do  
you think of that? Kris Ray MHC, LLC

## City of Grosse Pointe Woods

### CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

Motion by Granger, seconded by McConaghy, regarding **Decennial Redistricting**, that the Council adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution calls for a decennial Census of the population of the country and a reapportionment of representatives to the U. S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the Census every 10 years, states are required to approve new districts for the U.S. House of Representatives as well as state office districts for state representatives and state senators; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Michigan have established a Redistricting Commission to undertake the development and approval of redistricting plans based on the 2020 Census, and to take effect starting in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court and the Michigan Constitution have established principles that the redistricting process must meet; and

WHEREAS, redistricting plans are required to follow principles of being compact, contiguous, respecting borders of municipalities and natural geographic features, respecting minority voter rights to representation, and keeping communities with similar interests together; and

WHEREAS, the six small municipalities consisting of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods comprise all of the suburban communities of the northeastern corner of Wayne County and a tiny part of Macomb County; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of all of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods have lived for decades as one community sharing a multitude of services including one public school system serving all of the Grosse Pointes and a portion of Harper Woods, shared mutual aid for police and fire, and many other services and expenses forming a single community of interest; and

WHEREAS, the redistricting plan in place for the last decade divided this community of interest into two districts: State District 1 consisting of Grosse Pointe Shores, Grosse Pointe Woods, Harper Woods, and a portion of Detroit, and State District 2 consisting of Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe City, Grosse Pointe Park, and a portion of Detroit, two State Senate districts, and a Congressional district stretching in convoluted fashion all the way to Pontiac, an Oakland County community, creating a three-county wide stretch; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grosse Pointe Woods passed a Resolution on July 11, 2011, in opposition to the division of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods into multiple legislative districts which proved to not respect the long-established redistricting principle of drawing elected representatives' district boundaries to respect communities of interest; and

WHEREAS, redistricting should allow a long-time combined community, its residents, businesses, infrastructure, and the community as a whole, to be represented together to have an effective and unified voice in Lansing and Washington, D.C.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Grosse Pointe Woods requests the Michigan Redistricting Commission approve the redistricting plan keeping Grosse Pointe Woods, Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Shores, Grosse Pointe Park, and Harper Woods in the same state and federal legislative districts, and that a copy of this resolution be immediately provided to the members of the Michigan Redistricting Commission for their consideration.

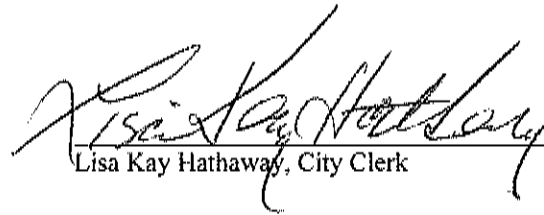
Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Brown, Bryant, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Vaughn

No: None

Absent: Gafa

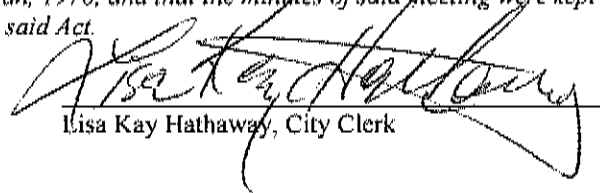
RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.



Lisa Kay Hathaway, City Clerk

#### CERTIFICATION

*I, Lisa Kay Hathaway, City Clerk of the City of Grosse Pointe Woods, do hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Council on August 16, 2021, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be, or have been, made available as required by said Act.*



Lisa Kay Hathaway, City Clerk

**Written Testimony to the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission  
Related to May 27 Public hearing in Lansing  
May 24, 2021**

Thank you for doing this important work to support free and fair elections in Michigan. I want to encourage you to treat the Lansing region counties of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton as the Community of Interest they are by including them in the same Congressional District. For decades, the Lansing region has been the victim of gerrymandering, diminishing our influence and access to resources.

**How we see ourselves:** No matter where we live in this tri-county region, if we are traveling to, say Florida, we will likely tell people we are from Lansing. We read the local newspaper, the Lansing State Journal, or perhaps the Lansing City Pulse. Every two years, the Lansing League of Women Voters puts out voter guides for residents of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton. Delta Township in Eaton County is so much a part of Lansing that its mailing address is Lansing MI 48917.

**Economy:** Tri-county leaders have long recognized that our economy and prosperity depend on regional cooperation. Our crowning economic development achievement of the past 30 years was “keeping General Motors in Lansing.” In actuality, we kept GM in the Lansing region. Many if not most of the jobs are in new plants in Eaton County that replaced older ones in Ingham. GM calls its newest plant the Lansing Delta Township Assembly Plant. The Lansing Economic Area Partnership, our regional economic development team, attracts and retains businesses in the three counties. Capital Area Michigan Works! provides employment services for workers and businesses through centers in each county.

The state of Michigan is a dominant employer. Many, many state workers commute from Eaton and Clinton County to state jobs, and many Ingham and Clinton residents travel to Eaton County, home to the State Secondary Complex of government offices.

**Education:** Michigan State University is a major employer and educational and cultural institution. Many faculty and staff live in Eaton and Clinton as well as Ingham. Students from all three counties also attend Lansing Community College; in fact, LCC has an expansive West Campus in Eaton County providing education and training for tri-county workers. One of the area’s largest school districts, Waverly, is split between Ingham and Eaton counties, and many Lansing students choose to attend school there through school of choice programs.

**Health:** Sparrow and McLaren are the major health systems for residents in all three counties. When the Ingham County Health Department counts Covid cases, it notes that its numbers include Eaton and Clinton residents. The main hospital campuses are located in Ingham County, and residents from all three counties use them. In addition, there are Sparrow hospitals in St. Johns (Clinton County) and Charlotte (Eaton County). McLaren has facilities in all three counties as well.

**Culture:** Tri-county residents come to the Wharton Center at MSU for plays and concerts. They cheer on MSU at Spartan Stadium and the Breslin Center. The Lansing Lugnuts minor league baseball team is supported by sports fans in all three counties. Youth sports cross county borders all the time. The Capital Area Soccer League includes teams from communities in each county. The high school Capital Area Activities Conference does the same.



**People of color:** Delta Township in Eaton County is one of the most diverse communities within our Community of Interest. About 12% of the population is Black, trailing only Lansing and Lansing Township. Putting Delta Township in a different district than Lansing divides the Black community and diminishes its representation in Washington.

**Geographical mish-mash:** Most of Lansing is in Ingham County, but portions are in Eaton and Clinton. Most of East Lansing is in Ingham, but some is in Clinton. Most of Grand Ledge is in Eaton, but some is in Clinton. When Eaton, Clinton and Ingham are separated, families that live in the same city and attend the same schools can end up with different members of Congress.



**Congressional district history:** If you look at the Congressional maps of the past, the Lansing region has been victims of gerrymandering for at least 20 years. The 8<sup>th</sup> District currently includes northern and even *eastern* Oakland County (Detroit suburbs) but none of Eaton or Clinton County just across the road. Today, our residents are at the *far corners* of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Districts. It would be hard to further divide our Community of Interest or diminish our influence if you tried.

There is no doubt in my mind that you will be presented with a fair map that recognizes the Ingham-Eaton-Clinton Community of Interest. I hope you will adopt one that makes these long-overdue corrections.

Sincerely,

Chris Andrews

I was speaker number 22 at the Kalamazoo hearing, and I understand that the following goals have been set by the committee to evaluate its success in completing its redistricting project:

**Underlying Redistricting Goals:**

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1. Establish districts of equal population.
2. Require that districts be geographically contiguous.
3. Reflect Michigan's diversity – communities of interest.
4. Maintain political balance – no disproportionate advantage to any one party.
5. Remain neutral to incumbents- not favor or disfavor.
6. Consider county, city, and township boundaries.
7. Be reasonably compact.

**Goals 1, 2, and 7, Equal Population, Geographically Contiguous and Compact.**

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As these are not controversial, I will focus my comments on the other goals.

**4. Maintain Political Balance – No Disproportionate Advantage to Any One Party.**

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At the Kalamazoo hearing, I argued that the best test of the fairness in district maps will be: "Do the majority of voters feel heard and fairly represented?"

Michigan is split relatively equally between the two major parties – a 5-point spread. Therefore, fairness will ultimately be achieved when the number of districts that lean politically left is proportional to those leaning politically right. Even more important, I believe that redistricting will better serve all residents, when in a high percentage of the districts are competitive – the margin between the percentage leaning Democrat and the percentage leaning Republican is less than 5%. Given that the independent voter percentage in Michigan averages 3%, the following is an example of a district with 5% competitive margins:

% Leaning Major Party 1	46
% Leaning Major Party 2	51
% Of Other Parties	<u>3</u>
Total.	<u>100</u>

In this scenario, either major party can win an election, and Independents will have an enhanced voice. In a district structured as above, a candidate from either major party can still win a district election with a combination of:

1. A strong GOTV(Get Out The Vote) program,
2. By appealing to Independents, and
3. Winning over less than 3% of the competing party.

This kind of redistricting will result in elected officials who have to listen to the constituents' interests first, and the party interests second. Everyone will feel that the district structure can support their political point of view, and it provides an important voice to other party candidates.

Currently, of Michigan's 110 State House Seats, only 13 fit my "5% Test"<sup>1</sup> for competitive fairness, I have attached to this letter my detailed analysis which I summarize here:

Leaning	Margin Between Major Party Alignment						Total
	In Excess of 50%	Less than 50% and Over 25%	Less than 25% and Over 15%	Less than 15% and Over 10%	Less than 10% and Over 5%	Less than 5%	
Democrat	16	13	6	4	4	8	51
Republican	0	9	24	10	12	4	59
Total	16	22	30	14	16	12	110

As can be seen in the analysis, gerrymandering has "packed" a significant portion of the democratic leaning votes into 29 of the 110 districts, while there are only 9 similarly packed Districts that favor Republicans. In these 29 Democratic leaning districts, more than half (16) have Democrat margins in excess of 50%. There are not similarly "packed" Republican districts. This results in the disillusionment of Statewide Democratic voters by rendering them noncompetitive in 55 (50%) of the house districts. We should also remember that Republican voters in 43 Democrat leaning districts (39%) are similarly disillusioned. Only 13 districts are competitive (12%).

So, while 51% of Michigan voters traditionally vote for Democrats, the current structure means that Republicans need to win only 1 of the 13 competitive districts to control the House. The bottom line is that in 97 of Michigan's 110 House districts, there are a significant number of constituents feeling that they have no voice in their government.

My recommendation is that you apply these tests to the final maps:

1. 50% of districts are competitive.
2. To the extent that a district cannot be structured for being competitive that there are an equal number of similarly structured districts for each of the major parties. (For example, if there are 5 districts in which Democrats hold a 51% margin, then there are similarly 5 districts in which Republicans hold a 51% margin.

### **3. Reflect Michigan's Diversity – Communities of Interest.**

I was dismayed by the number of the speakers at the Kalamazoo hearing who did not understand this goal. Its purpose is not to pack likeminded people into controlled districts, but instead to make sure that minorities and special interest groups are not disadvantaged by the redistricting structure. This goal should be used to make sure that our diversity is similarly reflected in our governance.

For example, approximately 21% of Michigan's residents are self-identified as a minority<sup>2</sup>; the maps should provide them with a competitive advantage in approximately 22 House districts. Similarly,

<sup>1</sup> Based on the MI 2020 State House statistics for Partisan Lean from Davesredistricting.org.

<sup>2</sup> <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#stats::87138d4d-7b42-44b3-8649-45afcb5b3995>



because 25.4% (2.5 million) of Michigan's 9.9 million residents live in rural settings<sup>3 4</sup>, they should have a competitive advantage in approximately 28 House seats.

In redrawing maps, you will be faced with decisions of where to draw lines, and in many cases, you might have several choices to achieve your goals. When faced with multiple alternatives, the arguments presented to you in the hearing are relevant and can be a sound basis for your mapping decisions, as long as the real intent of this "diversity" goal is not overshadowed.

My recommendation is that goal 3 be used as a test of success in the redistricting, not as a tool of packing likeminded peoples.

## **5. Remain Neutral to Incumbents**

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Every redistricting will ultimately be either advantageous or disadvantageous to an incumbent. That is not the test. The test is whether the mapping was specifically done to help or hinder an incumbent. The methodology used should simply not consider the impact on incumbents.

My recommendation. Ignore and exclude all information about incumbents from your deliberations.

## **6. Consider Existing County, City and Township Lines.**

---

The operative word in this goal is "consider." While there is special value, especially at the local level, to have common representation, lines nevertheless must be drawn. There will always be instances in which next door neighbors have different representation, and every district will be comprised of constituents with differing opinions. So, while this is an ideal, there is a reason it is at the bottom of the goal list.

My recommendation is that this is only an important criterion when selecting between several remapping choices, and if breaking those existing government lines results in meeting goals 3 and 4, then so be it.

Thanks to all of you for this work.

**Ken Neumann**  
Galien Michigan

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.michiganfarmnews.com/lessons-learned-while-studying-michigans-urban-and-rural-communities#:~:text=Three%20quarters%20of%20Michigan's%209.9,average%2C%20older%20than%20urban%20Michigan.>

<sup>4</sup> [https://crcmich.org/wp-content/uploads/rpt400\\_Exploring\\_Michigans\\_Urban-Rural\\_Divide-2.pdf](https://crcmich.org/wp-content/uploads/rpt400_Exploring_Michigans_Urban-Rural_Divide-2.pdf)

## VOTES CAST IN MICHIGAN ON STATEWIDE RACES: 2016 - 2020

### Sources:

[https://mielections.us/election/results/2018GEN\\_CENR.html](https://mielections.us/election/results/2018GEN_CENR.html) and

[https://mielections.us/election/results/2016GEN\\_CENR.html](https://mielections.us/election/results/2016GEN_CENR.html)

[https://mielections.us/election/results/2020GEN\\_CENR.html](https://mielections.us/election/results/2020GEN_CENR.html)

Election	R	D	O	Total
<b>2020</b>				
Biden/Trump	2,649,352	2,804,040	85,910	5,539,302
Peters/James	2,642,233	2,734,563	102,924	5,479,720
<b>2018</b>				
Whitmer/Schuette	1,859,534	2,266,193	124,808	4,250,535
Benson/Lang	1,840,118	2,213,243	130,665	4,184,026
Nessel/Leonard	1,916,117	2,031,117	194,810	4,142,044
Stabenow/James	1,938,818	2,214,478	83,975	4,237,271
<b>2016</b>				
Trump[/Clinton	2,279,543	2,268,839	250,902	4,799,284
<b>ALL STATEWIDE VOTES CAST 2016-2020</b>	<b>15,125,715</b>	<b>16,532,473</b>	<b>973,994</b>	<b>32,632,182</b>

### CURRENT MAPPING

House Districts with under 5% Margin

House Districts with over 5% Margin

*Actual Makeup*

46%

51%

3%

4%

7%

50%

39%

53%

47%

**Sources:**

[illegible]



MICHIGAN STATE HOUSE ANALYSIS

Sources:

<https://davesredistricting.org/maps#stats:87138d4d-7b42-44b3-8649-45afcb5b3995>

District	Partisan Lean				Democrat Advantage								Republican Advantage							
	R	D	O	D-R Margin	Over 50%	Over 25% up to 50%	Over 15% up to 25%	Over 10% up to 15	Over 5% up to 10%	Over 2% up to 5%	Over 1% to 2%	Under 1%	Over 50%	Over 25% up to 50%	Over 15% up to 25%	Over 10% up to 15	Over 5% up to 10%	Over 2% up to 5%	Over 1% to 2%	Under 1%
41	46.74	51.09	2.17	-4.35						1										
42	57.96	39.50	2.54	18.46																
43	54.25	42.88	2.87	11.37												1				
44	57.95	39.35	2.70	18.60												1				
45	51.44	46.44	2.11	5.00														1		
46	58.96	38.33	2.71	20.63												1				
47	62.55	34.75	2.70	27.80												1				
48	46.60	50.28	3.13	-3.68						1										
49	31.33	65.88	2.79	-34.55		1														
50	44.43	52.77	2.80	-8.34					1											
51	55.96	41.11	2.93	14.85												1				
52	42.62	55.03	2.36	-12.41				1												
53	13.81	84.28	1.91	-70.47	1															
54	22.47	74.68	2.85	-52.21	1															
55	27.68	70.07	2.25	-42.39		1														
56	55.56	41.77	2.67	13.79																
57	54.04	42.82	3.14	11.22												1				
58	65.20	31.76	3.04	33.44												1				
59	60.73	35.84	3.42	24.89																
60	24.22	72.05	3.74	-47.83		1										1				
61	45.55	51.53	2.92	-5.98					1											
62	46.52	50.04	3.44	-3.52						1										
63	55.67	41.12	3.21	14.55												1				
64	52.95	43.86	3.19	9.09														1		
65	56.25	40.50	3.25	15.75												1				
66	53.89	42.49	3.63	11.40												1				
67	43.38	53.38	3.24	-10.00				1												
68	23.27	73.33	3.40	-50.06	1															
69	30.56	67.27	2.17	-36.71		1														
70	57.86	38.31	3.84	19.55																
71	46.25	50.67	3.08	-4.42						1						1				
72	53.19	43.73	3.08	9.46														1		
73	56.14	41.11	2.75	15.03												1				
74	57.69	38.75	3.57	18.94												1				
75	21.71	74.18	4.11	-52.47	1															
76	38.60	58.16	3.24	-19.56			1													
77	54.66	41.70	3.65	12.96												1				
78	56.00	40.70	3.30	15.30																
79	49.95	47.31	2.74	2.64												1				
80	58.26	38.51	3.23	19.75												1				
81	59.60	37.42	2.98	22.18												1				
82	61.09	35.88	3.03	25.21																
83	56.04	40.35	3.61	15.69										1		1				
84	61.49	35.57	2.94	25.92										1						
85	54.07	42.49	3.45	11.58													1			

MICHIGAN STATE HOUSE ANALYSIS

Sources:

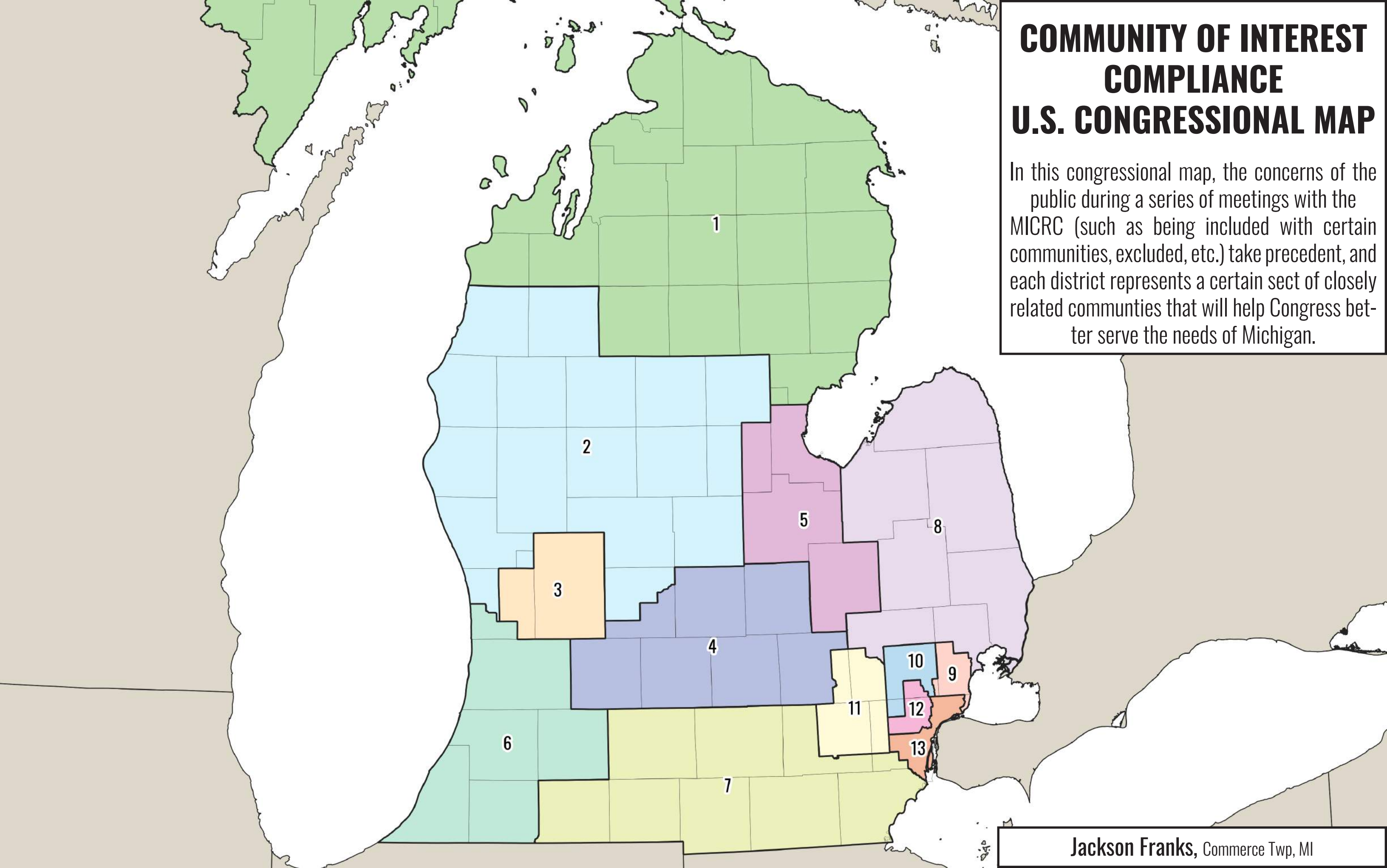
<https://davesredistricting.org/maps#stats:87138d4d-7b42-44b3-8649-45afeb5b3995>

District	Partisan Lean				Democrat Advantage								Republican Advantage							
	R	D	O	D-R Margin	Over 50%	Over 25% up to 50%	Over 15% up to 25%	Over 10% up to 15	Over 5% up to 10%	Over 2% up to 5%	Over 1% to 2%	Under 1%	Over 50%	Over 25% up to 50%	Over 15% up to 25%	Over 10% up to 15	Over 5% up to 10%	Over 2% up to 5%	Over 1% to 2%	Under 1%
86	59.29	37.62	3.08	21.67											1					
87	60.76	35.79	3.45	24.97											1					
88	68.85	28.47	2.68	40.38																
89	58.41	38.76	2.83	19.65										1		1				
90	62.47	34.41	3.11	28.06										1						
91	51.43	45.00	3.56	6.43														1		
92	35.18	61.51	3.31	-26.33		1														
93	53.28	44.02	2.70	9.26														1		
94	55.50	42.01	2.49	13.49												1				
95	28.10	69.23	2.67	-41.13		1														
96	47.47	49.18	3.35	-1.71																
97	59.96	36.32	3.72	23.64							1									
98	55.44	41.21	3.35	14.23											1					
99	50.61	46.01	3.39	4.60												1				
100	60.60	35.84	3.56	24.76														1		
101	52.21	44.82	2.96	7.39														1		
102	60.26	36.20	3.54	24.06																
103	62.16	34.55	3.29	27.61																
104	52.07	44.75	3.18	7.32										1						
105	60.83	36.21	2.96	24.62														1		
106	58.49	38.60	2.91	19.89																
107	56.39	40.51	3.10	15.88																
108	58.17	39.23	2.60	18.94																
109	45.69	51.05	3.26	-5.36					1											
110	53.00	44.10	2.90	8.90														1		
AVERAGE	44.39	52.39	2.79	-8.01	16	13	6	4	4	5	2	1	0	9	24	10	12	2	1	1
					Democrat Advantage 51								Republican Advantage 59							
					Over 25% Advantage 29				Democrat Competitive 8				Over 25% Advantage 9				Republican Competitive 4			



# COMMUNITY OF INTEREST COMPLIANCE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL MAP

In this congressional map, the concerns of the public during a series of meetings with the MICRC (such as being included with certain communities, excluded, etc.) take precedent, and each district represents a certain sect of closely related communities that will help Congress better serve the needs of Michigan.



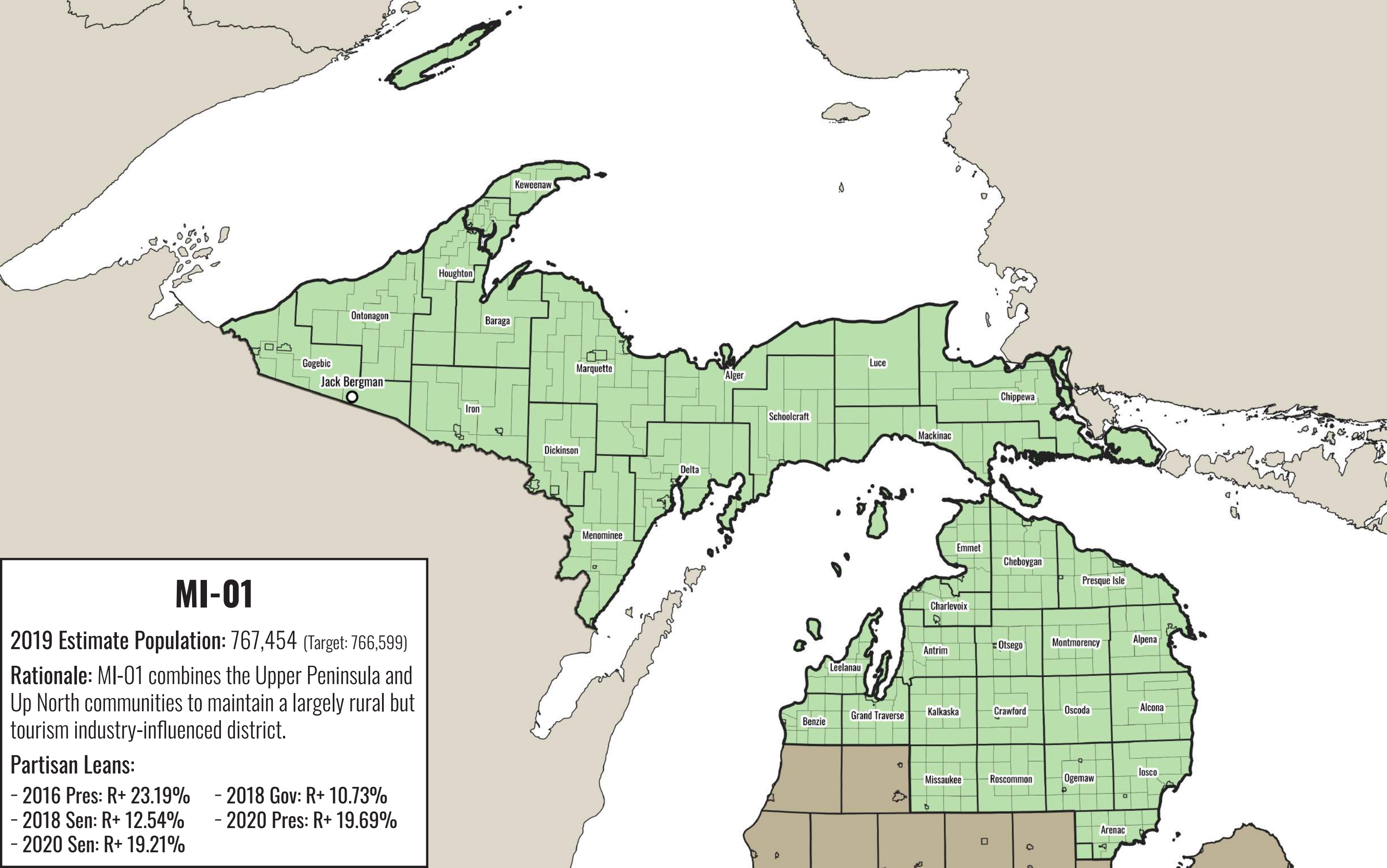
## MI-01

**2019 Estimate Population:** 767,454 (Target: 766,599)

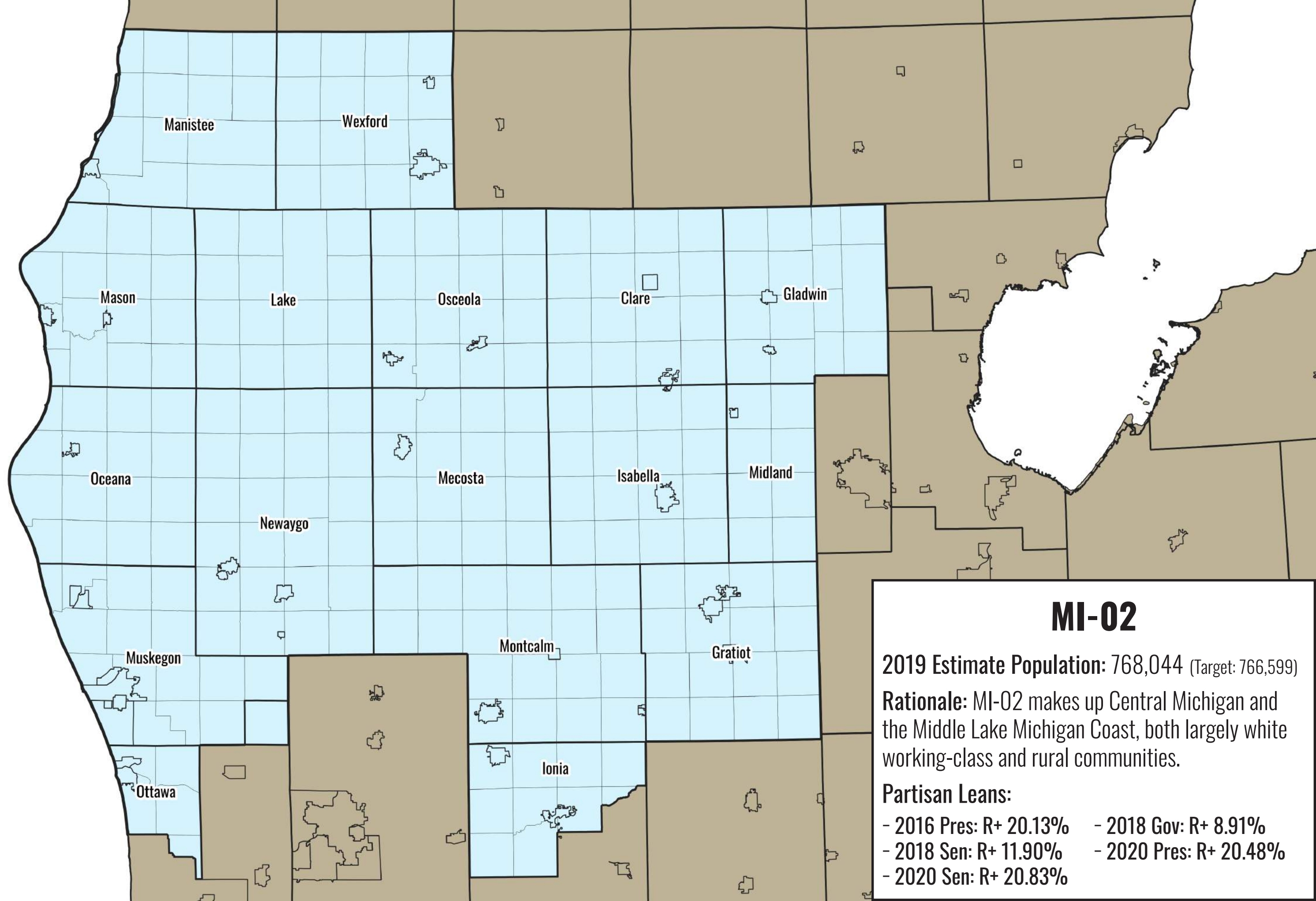
**Rationale:** MI-01 combines the Upper Peninsula and Up North communities to maintain a largely rural but tourism industry-influenced district.

### Partisan Leans:

- 2016 Pres: R+ 23.19%
- 2018 Gov: R+ 10.73%
- 2018 Sen: R+ 12.54%
- 2020 Pres: R+ 19.69%
- 2020 Sen: R+ 19.21%







## MI-02

**2019 Estimate Population:** 768,044 (Target: 766,599)

**Rationale:** MI-02 makes up Central Michigan and the Middle Lake Michigan Coast, both largely white working-class and rural communities.

### Partisan Leans:

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| - 2016 Pres: R+ 20.13% | - 2018 Gov: R+ 8.91%   |
| - 2018 Sen: R+ 11.90%  | - 2020 Pres: R+ 20.48% |
| - 2020 Sen: R+ 20.83%  |                        |

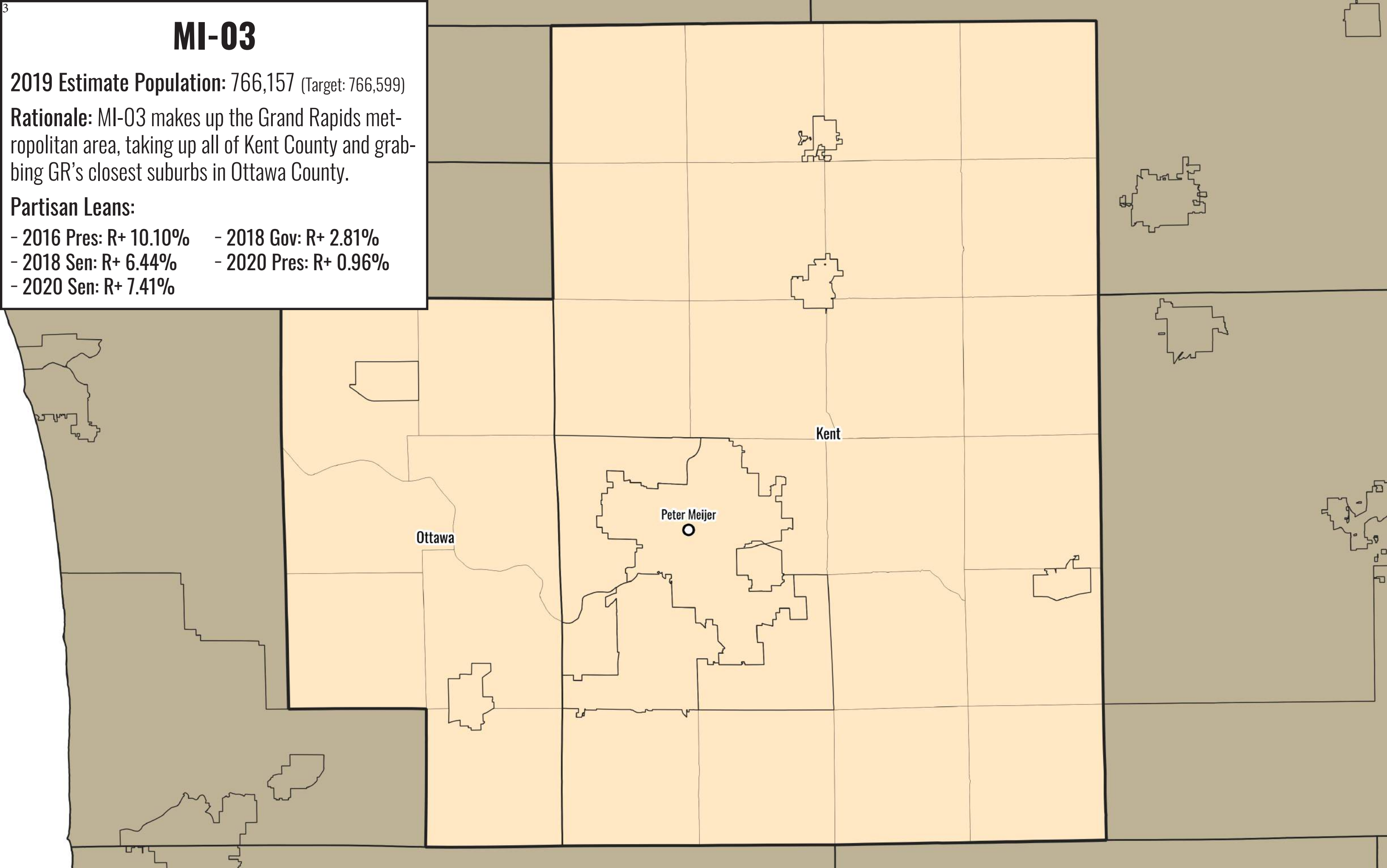
# MI-03

2019 Estimate Population: 766,157 (Target: 766,599)

**Rationale:** MI-03 makes up the Grand Rapids metropolitan area, taking up all of Kent County and grabbing GR's closest suburbs in Ottawa County.

**Partisan Leans:**

- 2016 Pres: R+ 10.10%
- 2018 Gov: R+ 2.81%
- 2018 Sen: R+ 6.44%
- 2020 Pres: R+ 0.96%
- 2020 Sen: R+ 7.41%



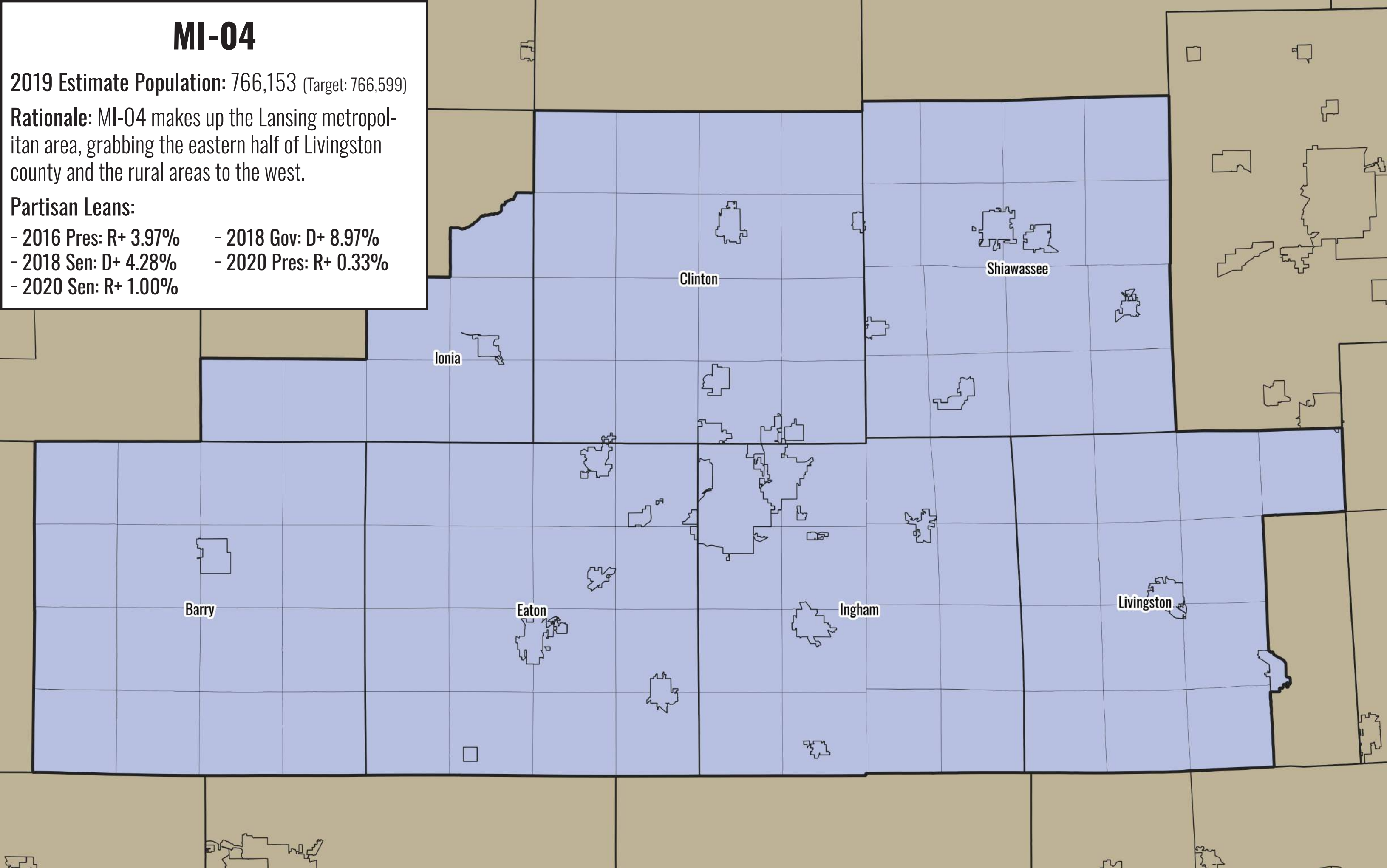
# MI-04

2019 Estimate Population: 766,153 (Target: 766,599)

**Rationale:** MI-04 makes up the Lansing metropolitan area, grabbing the eastern half of Livingston county and the rural areas to the west.

**Partisan Leans:**

- 2016 Pres: R+ 3.97%
- 2018 Gov: D+ 8.97%
- 2018 Sen: D+ 4.28%
- 2020 Pres: R+ 0.33%
- 2020 Sen: R+ 1.00%





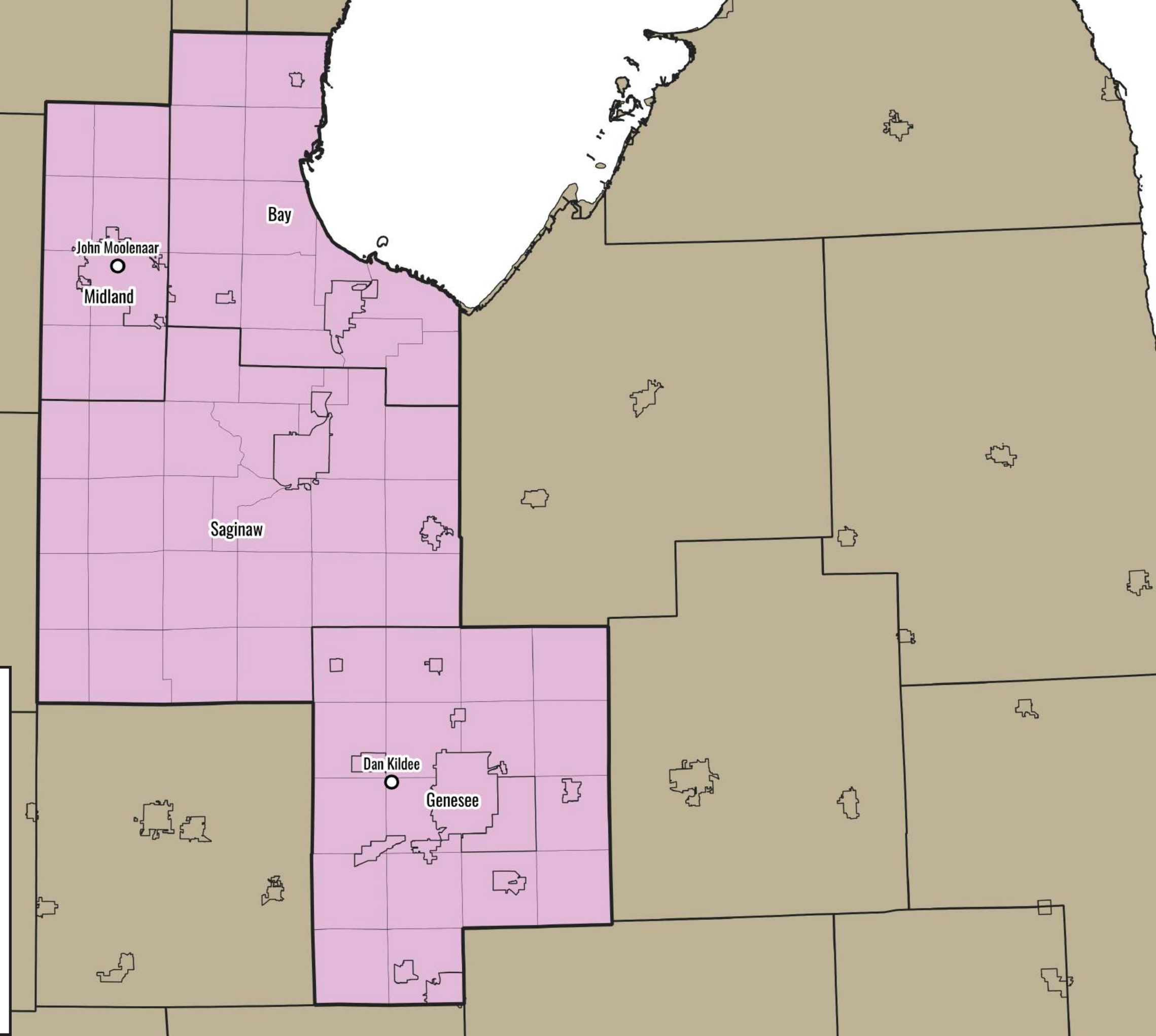
## MI-05

**2019 Estimate Population:** 766,635 (Target: 766,599)

**Rationale:** MI-05 combines the Flint and Tri-Cities metropolitan areas, creating a largely working-class district with strong union ties and industrial history.

### Partisan Leans:

- 2016 Pres: D+ 1.59%
- 2018 Gov: D+ 12.66%
- 2018 Sen: D+ 8.34%
- 2020 Pres: D+ 2.49%
- 2020 Sen: D+ 4.57%



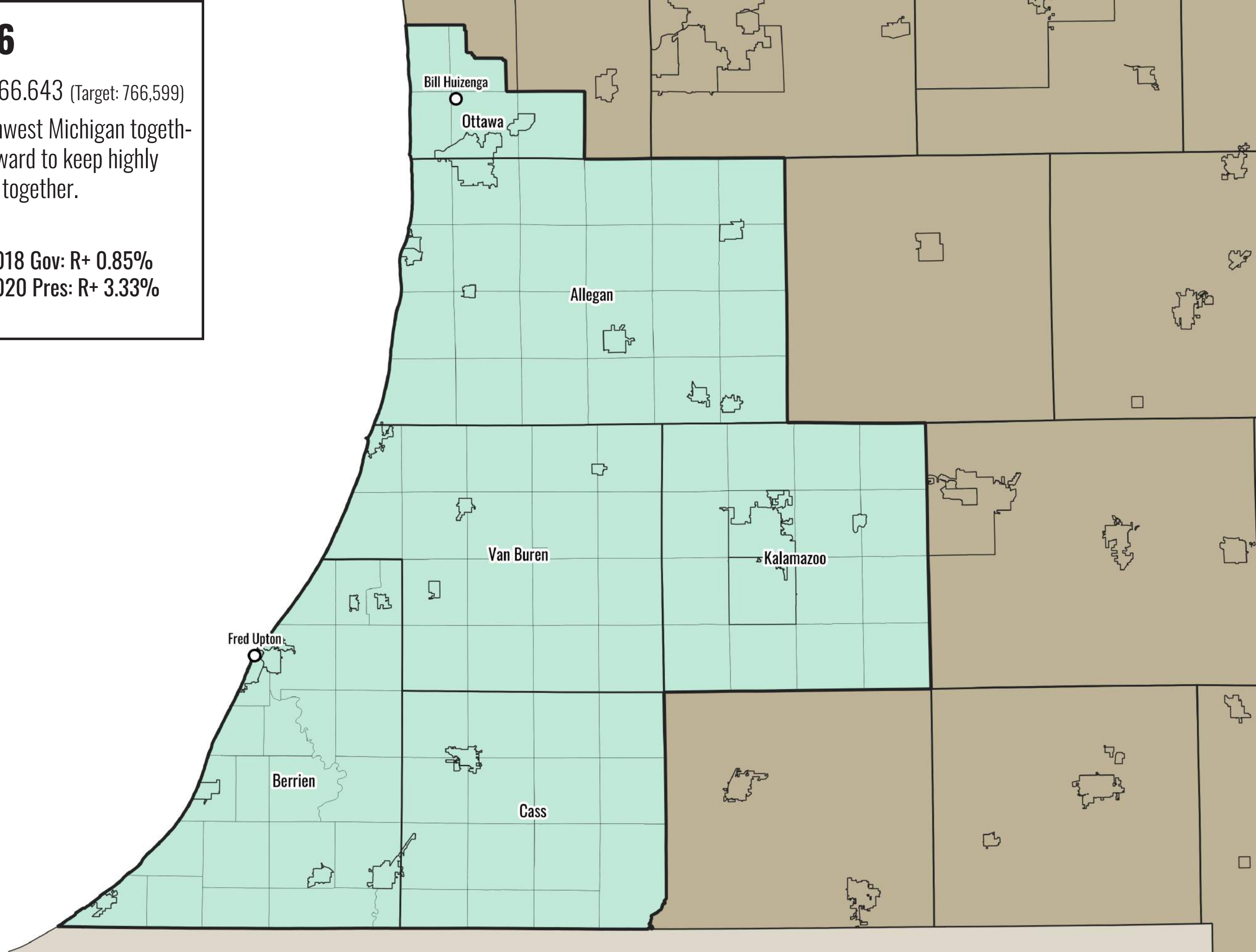
# MI-06

**2019 Estimate Population:** 766,643 (Target: 766,599)

**Rationale:** MI-06 keeps Southwest Michigan together, dragging the district northward to keep highly Dutch areas in Ottawa County together.

## Partisan Leans:

- 2016 Pres: R+ 8.51%
- 2018 Gov: R+ 0.85%
- 2018 Sen: R+ 4.01%
- 2020 Pres: R+ 3.33%
- 2020 Sen: R+ 8.44%



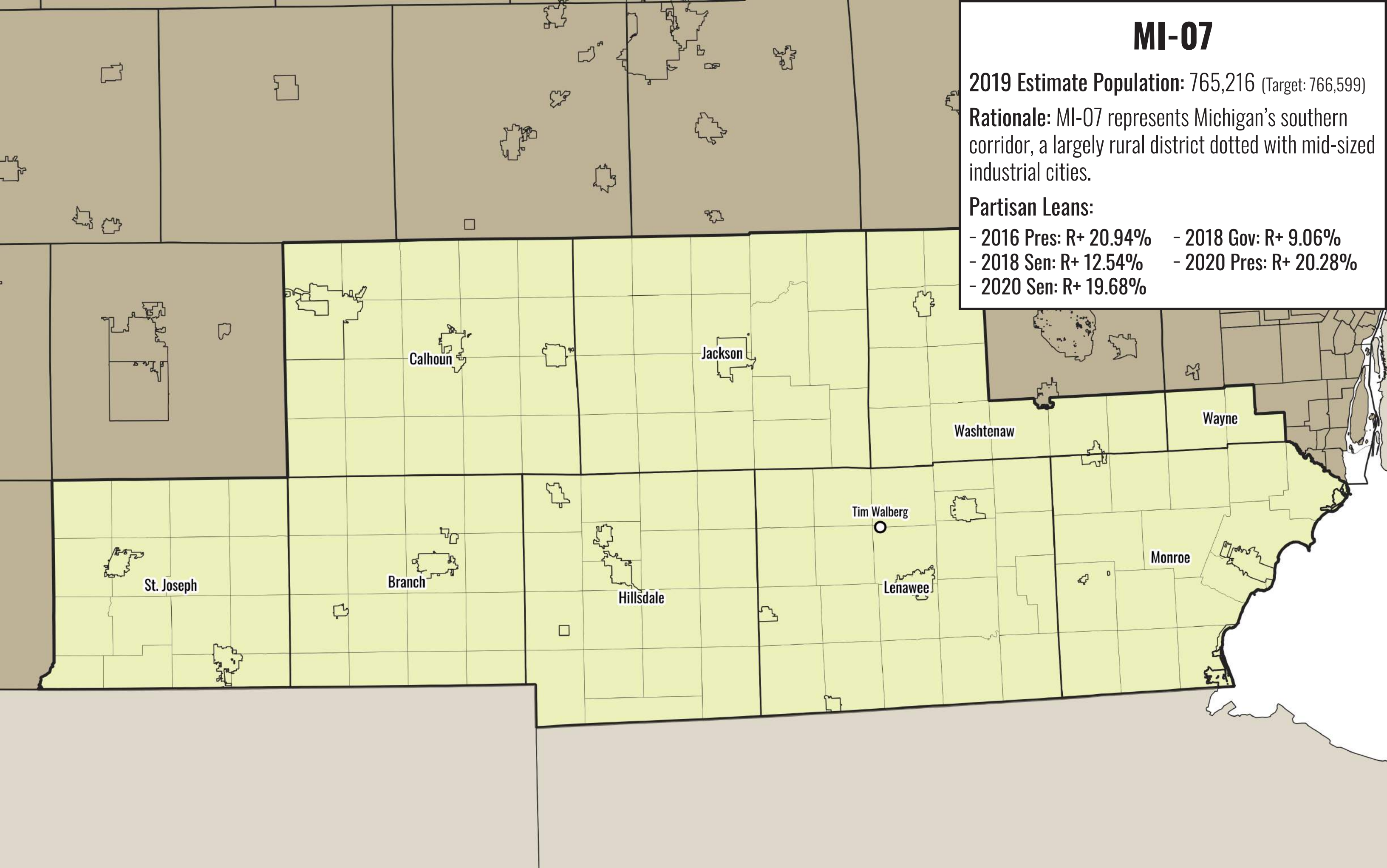
# MI-07

2019 Estimate Population: 765,216 (Target: 766,599)

**Rationale:** MI-07 represents Michigan's southern corridor, a largely rural district dotted with mid-sized industrial cities.

**Partisan Leans:**

- 2016 Pres: R+ 20.94%
- 2018 Gov: R+ 9.06%
- 2018 Sen: R+ 12.54%
- 2020 Pres: R+ 20.28%
- 2020 Sen: R+ 19.68%





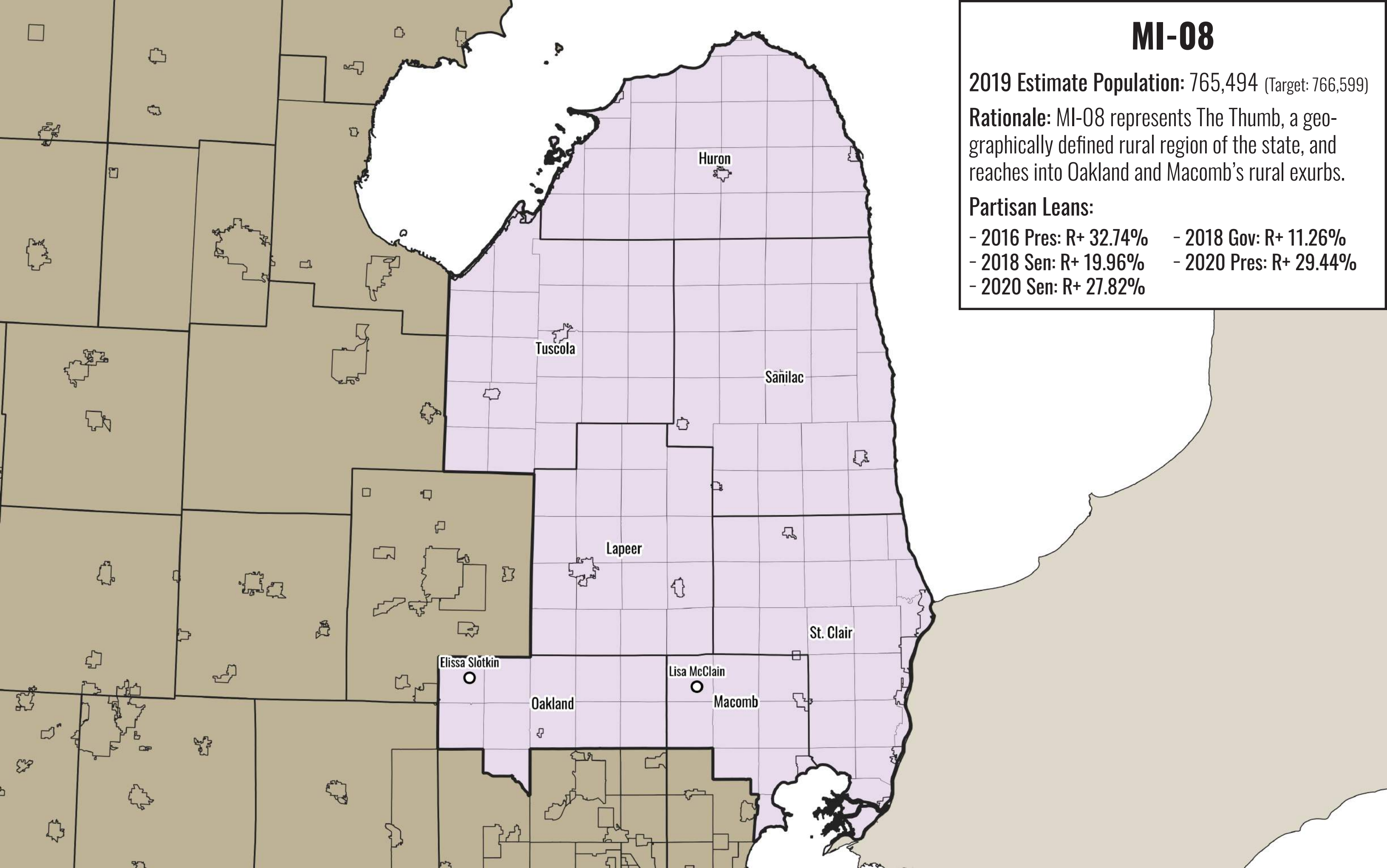
# MI-08

**2019 Estimate Population:** 765,494 (Target: 766,599)

**Rationale:** MI-08 represents The Thumb, a geographically defined rural region of the state, and reaches into Oakland and Macomb's rural exurbs.

## Partisan Leans:

- 2016 Pres: R+ 32.74%
- 2018 Gov: R+ 11.26%
- 2018 Sen: R+ 19.96%
- 2020 Pres: R+ 29.44%
- 2020 Sen: R+ 27.82%



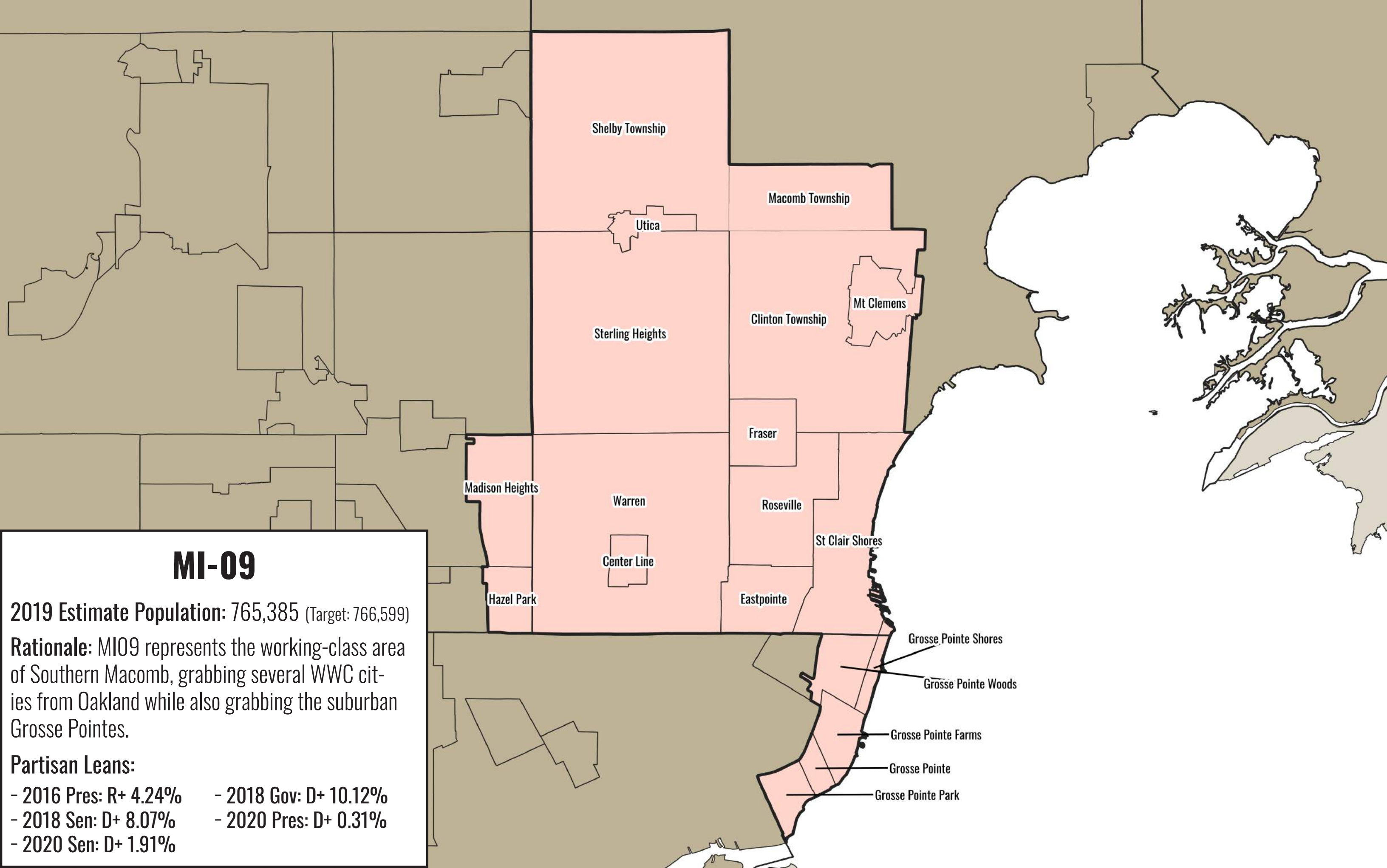
## MI-09

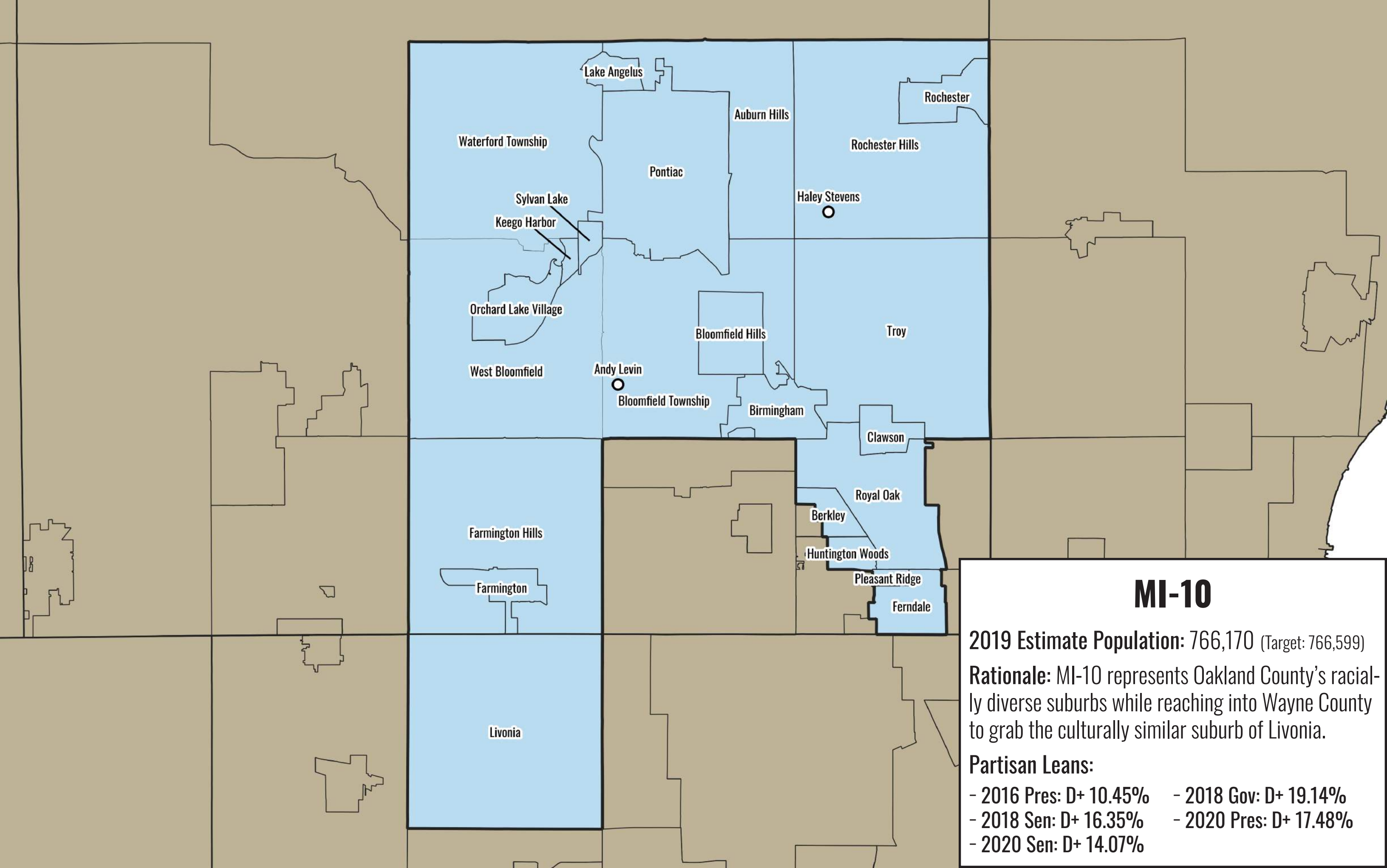
**2019 Estimate Population:** 765,385 (Target: 766,599)

**Rationale:** MI09 represents the working-class area of Southern Macomb, grabbing several WWC cities from Oakland while also grabbing the suburban Grosse Pointes.

### Partisan Leans:

- 2016 Pres: R+ 4.24%
- 2018 Gov: D+ 10.12%
- 2018 Sen: D+ 8.07%
- 2020 Pres: D+ 0.31%
- 2020 Sen: D+ 1.91%





## MI-10

**2019 Estimate Population:** 766,170 (Target: 766,599)

**Rationale:** MI-10 represents Oakland County’s racial-ly diverse suburbs while reaching into Wayne County to grab the culturally similar suburb of Livonia.

**Partisan Leans:**

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| - 2016 Pres: D+ 10.45% | - 2018 Gov: D+ 19.14%  |
| - 2018 Sen: D+ 16.35%  | - 2020 Pres: D+ 17.48% |
| - 2020 Sen: D+ 14.07%  |                        |



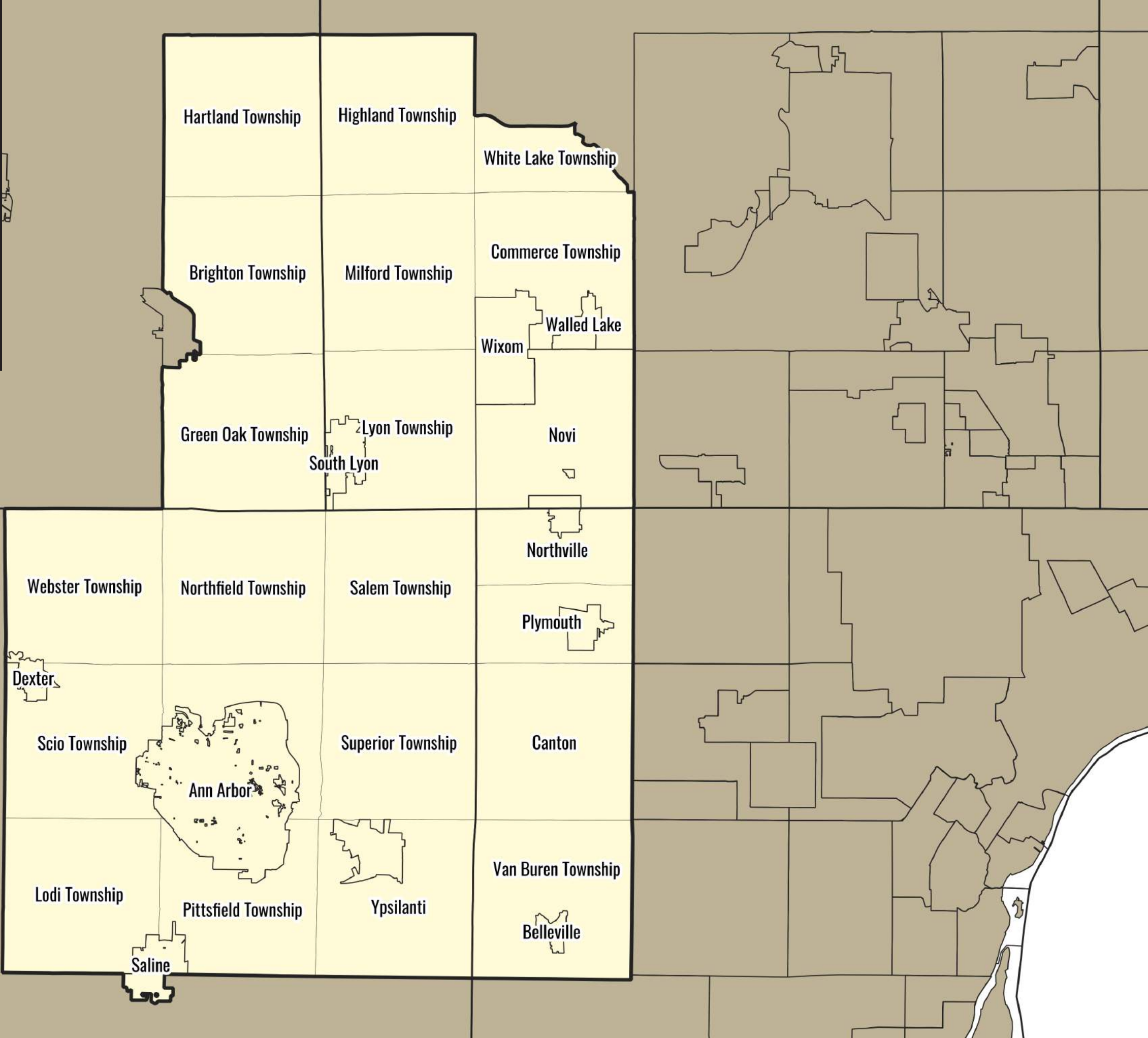
# MI-11

2019 Estimate Population: 766,749 (Target: 766,599)

**Rationale:** MI-11 represents Detroit's highly educated and growing suburbs, rooted in Ann Arbor but reaching into the Western Wayne and Oakland.

**Partisan Leans:**

- 2016 Pres: D+ 16.19%
- 2018 Gov: D+ 23.85%
- 2018 Sen: D+ 20.98%
- 2020 Pres: D+ 23.09%
- 2020 Sen: D +18.88%



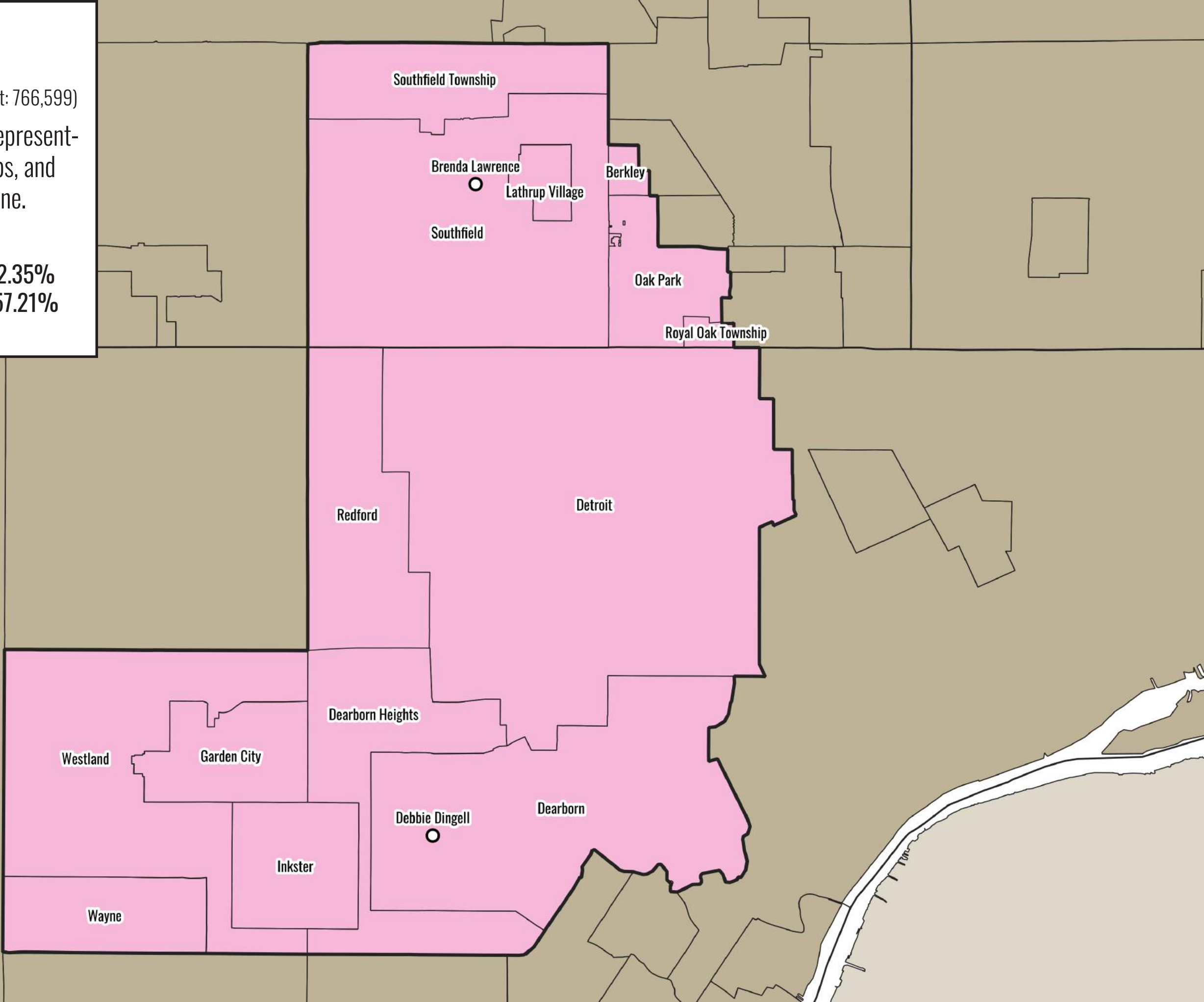
# MI-12

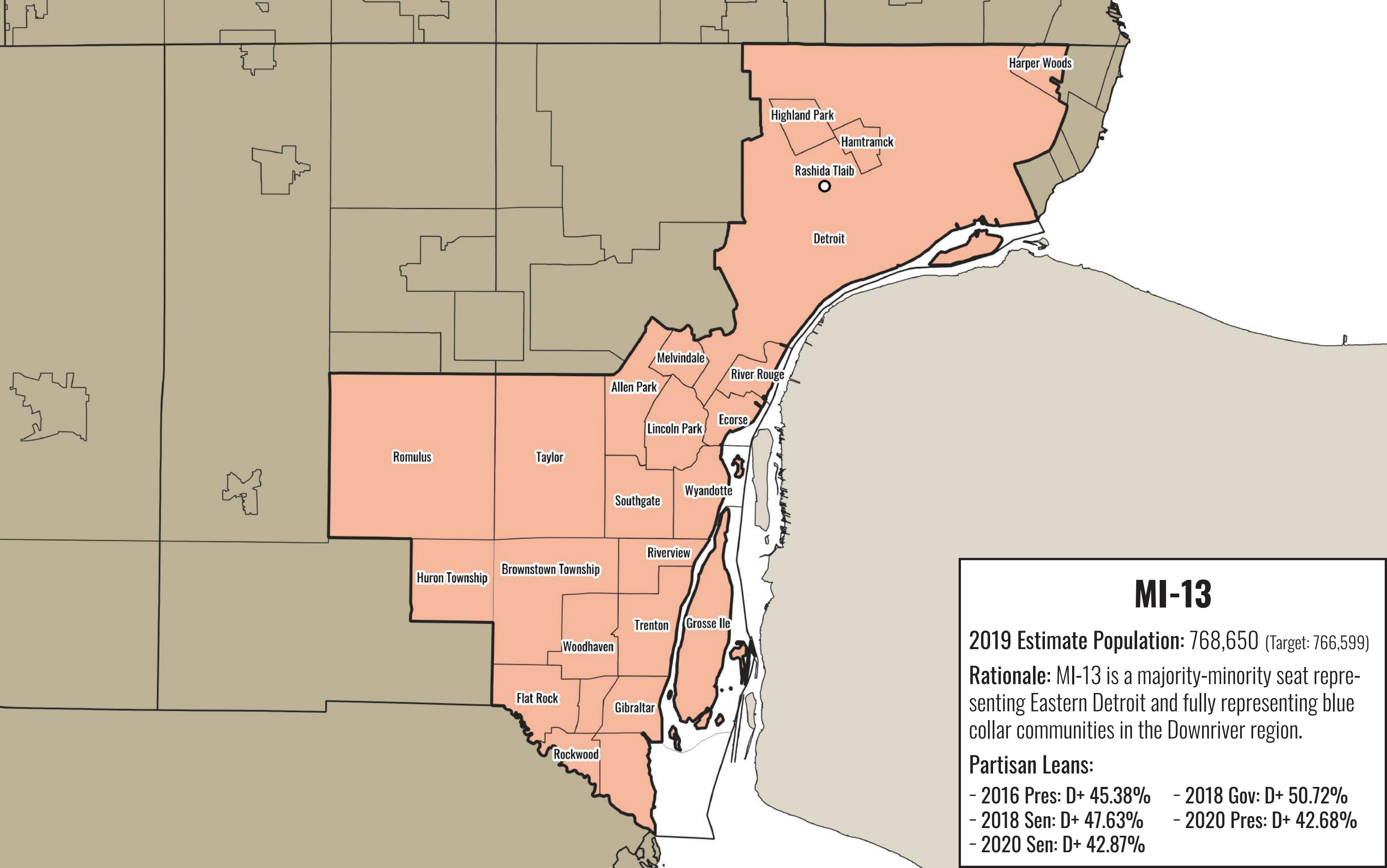
2019 Estimate Population: 766,468 (Target: 766,599)

**Rationale:** MI-12 is a majority-black seat representing Western Detroit, Oakland's black suburbs, and the blue collar diverse cities of Central Wayne.

**Partisan Leans:**

- 2016 Pres: D+ 57.33%
- 2018 Gov: D+ 62.35%
- 2018 Sen: D+ 59.92%
- 2020 Pres: D+ 57.21%
- 2020 Sen: D+ 57.00%





## MI-13

**2019 Estimate Population:** 768,650 (Target: 766,599)

**Rationale:** MI-13 is a majority-minority seat representing Eastern Detroit and fully representing blue collar communities in the Downriver region.

### Partisan Leans:

- 2016 Pres: D+ 45.38%
- 2018 Gov: D+ 50.72%
- 2018 Sen: D+ 47.63%
- 2020 Pres: D+ 42.68%
- 2020 Sen: D+ 42.87%

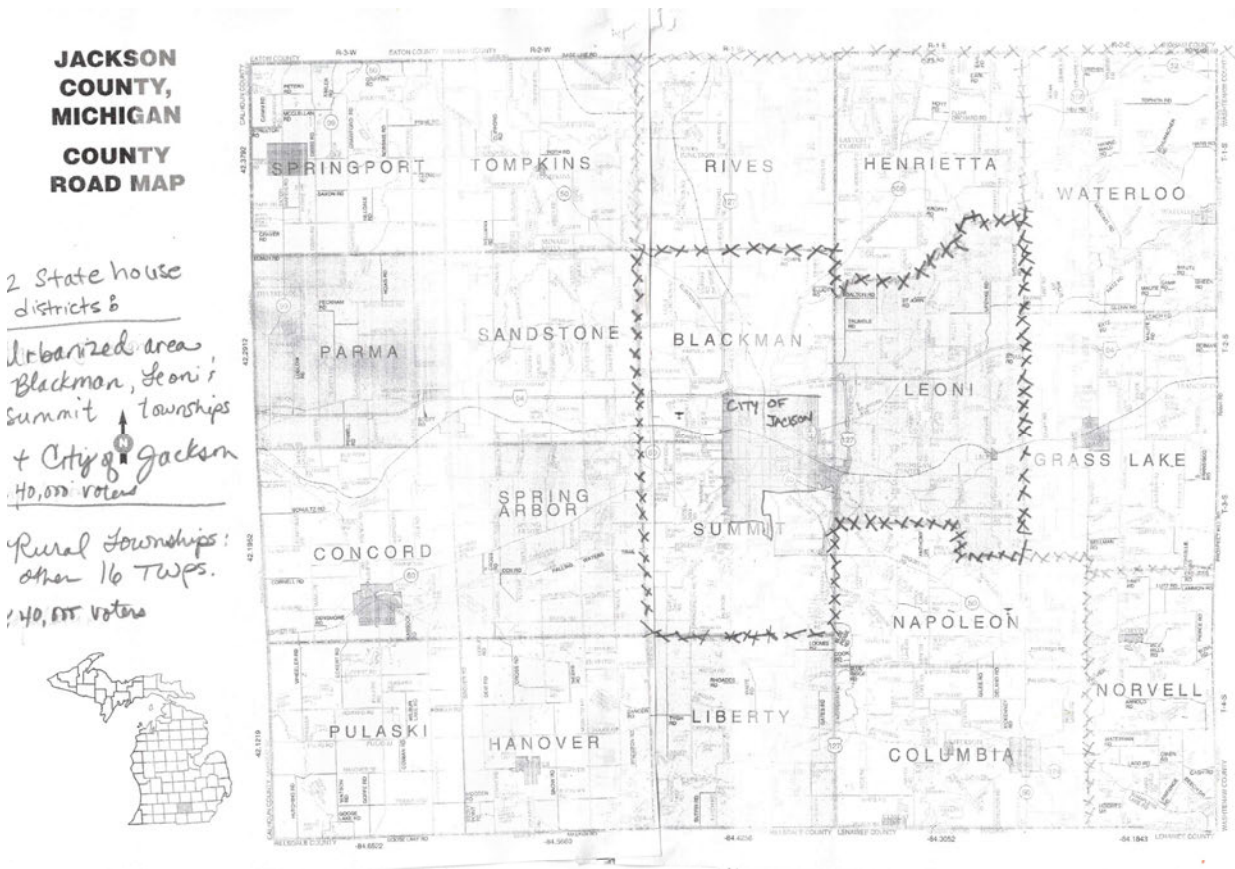


The map provided shows my proposed configuration. Three townships: Blackman, Leoni and Summit plus the City of Jackson make one district. The remaining 16 rural townships form the second district in the County.

This configuration would allow for representation of metro and urban issues such as regional water and sewer infrastructure planning, road maintenance, education funding. planning and zoning, and transit.

I live within this urbanized area AND we have a home in the country: Tompkins Township. I am honestly more of a country girl. Buying in the city where I did, near the Cascades Falls Park, turned out to be an extremely smart move. We are less than a block from two city bus stops, a major non-urbanized trail network, and 1.5 miles to downtown with the Carnegie Library. My grocery store that I visit every other day is just a mile and a half away. We have a choice of three public elementary schools within 2 miles of home, are just blocks from the Junior High and less than a mile to the High School. In Tompkins we relied on fuel oil and wood to heat the home. Because of my location in the city I enjoy access to natural gas and high speed internet.

Despite fulfilling a lifelong dream to own a home and wooded property in Tompkins in 2010, in 2017 I moved us into the City of Jackson to better accommodate life as a working mom. I was looking for a chance to be less reliant on driving. Thank you for listening to our comments. Sincerely, Monica Day



**HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY RESOLUTION # 03-21**

**A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST STATUS OF COMMUNITY OF INTEREST BEFORE THE MICHIGAN  
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION.**

WHEREAS, in 2018 Michigan residents adopted Proposal 18-2 that created an independent citizens redistricting for state legislative and congressional districts; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Constitution was amended to add to Article II, Section 6; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) is currently taking public comment on "communities of interest" for consideration when drawing redistricting election districts; and

WHEREAS, the Howell Area Fire Authority, comprised of the townships of Howell, Oceola, Marion, Cohoctah, and the city of Howell, desire to make known to the MICRC a community of interest;

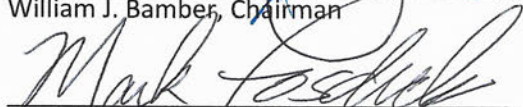
Now therefore it be resolved, the Howell Area Fire Authority, would like to be considered a community of interest when the MICRC considers drawing congressional, state senate and representative election districts.

Adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021 by roll call vote.

RECORD OF VOTES:      YEAS:   5    
                                     NAYS:   0  

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Howell Area Fire Authority Board at the regular meeting held on June 16, 2021.


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William J. Bamber, Chairman


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Fosdick, Secretary

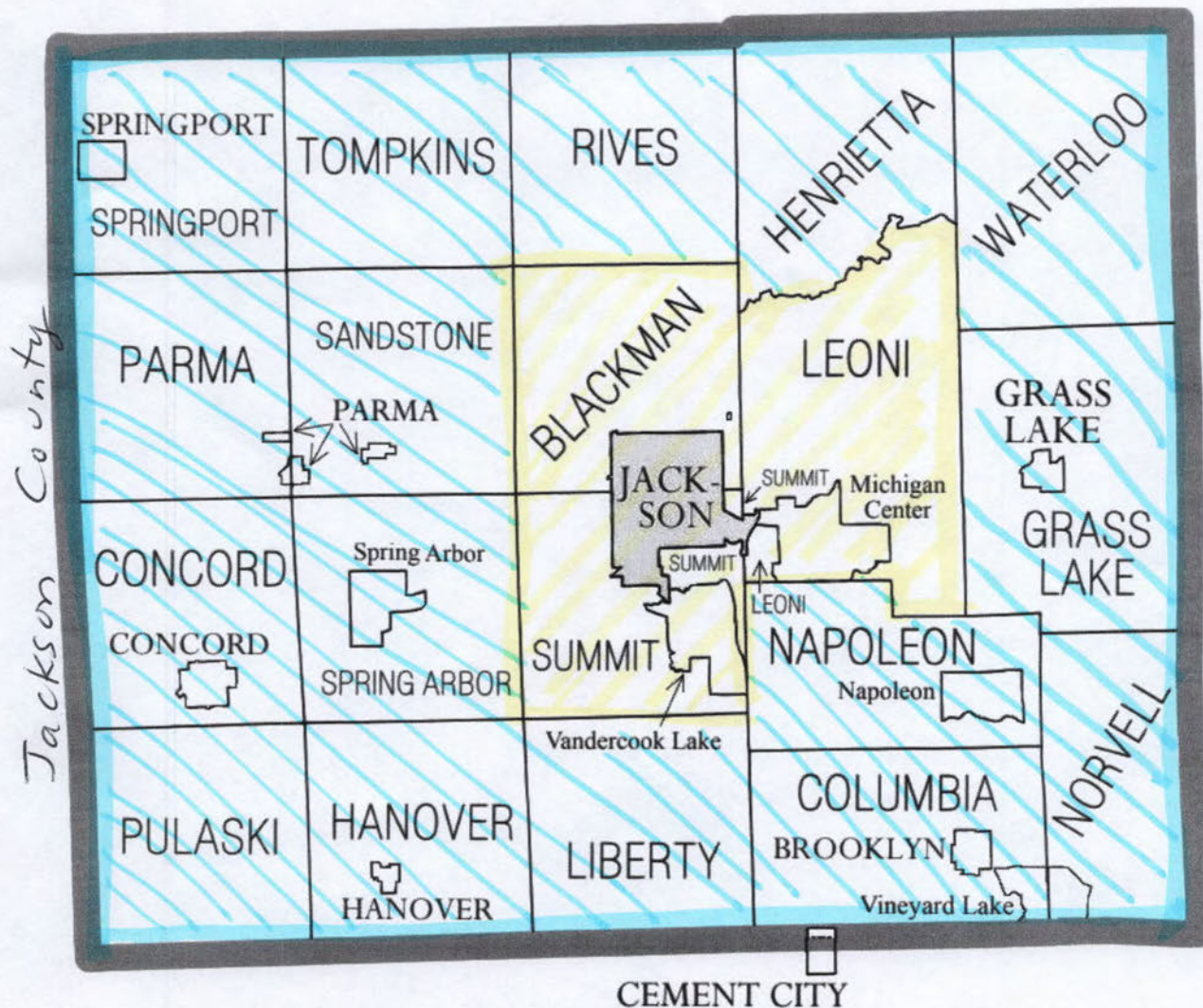


5/11/21

# C.O.I. Testimony from Nancy A. Smith - Map Attachment

 = Jackson County Rural

 = Jackson Co. Urban/Suburban



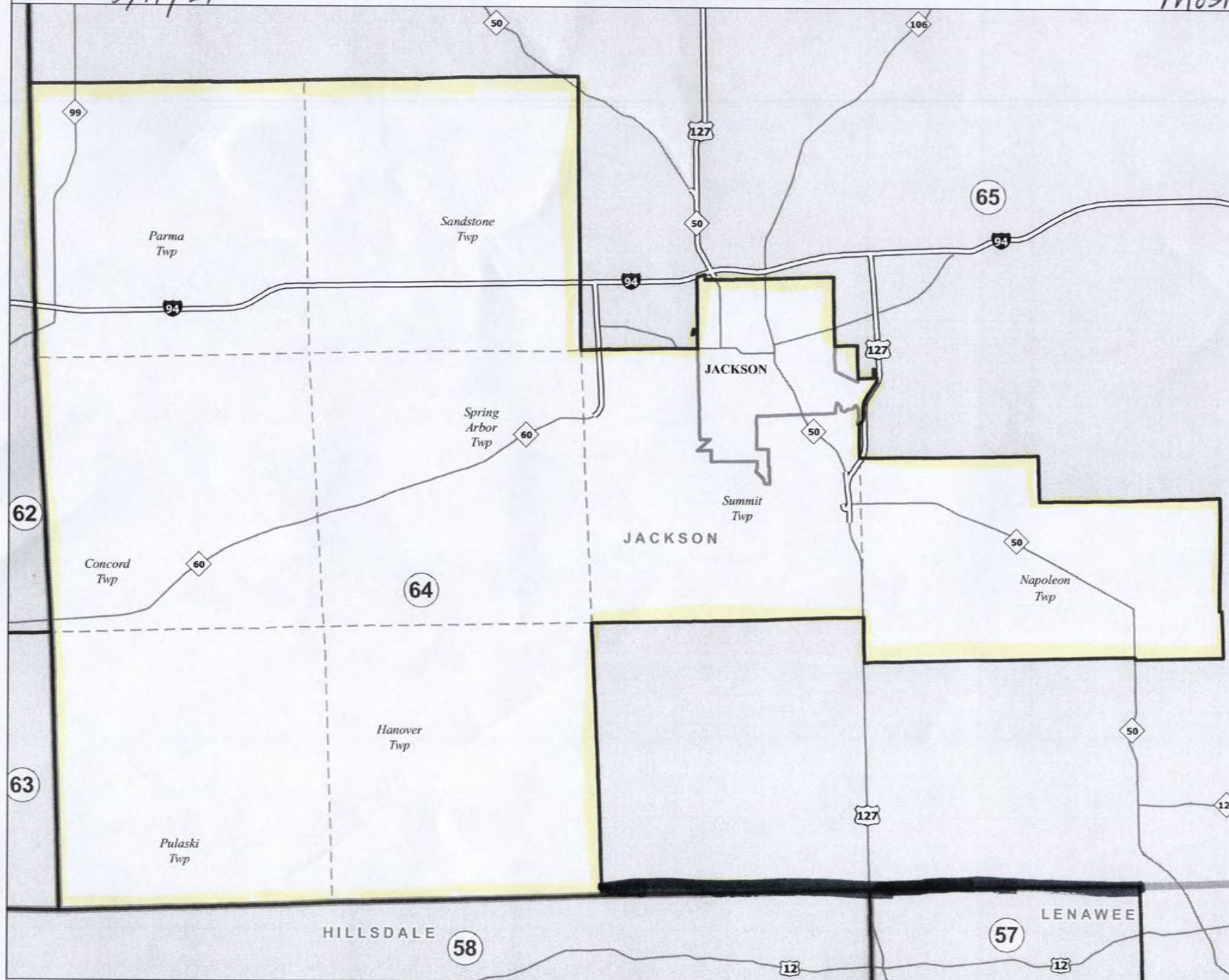
This map shows fairer and more compact district lines if Jackson Co. is to be divided into 2 new State House Districts.



COI Testimony  
from Nancy A. Smith  
5/11/21

# MICHIGAN STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 64 2011 Apportionment Plan

Elected Rep. is  
from rural area.  
Most of population  
in District is  
Urban &  
Suburban.



**Legend**

- House District
- City
- County
- Township
- Freeway
- Highway



Source:  
Base Map:  
Michigan Geographic Framework v11a  
Legislative District Boundaries:  
2011 Apportionment Plan  
(as enacted by PA 129 of 2011)



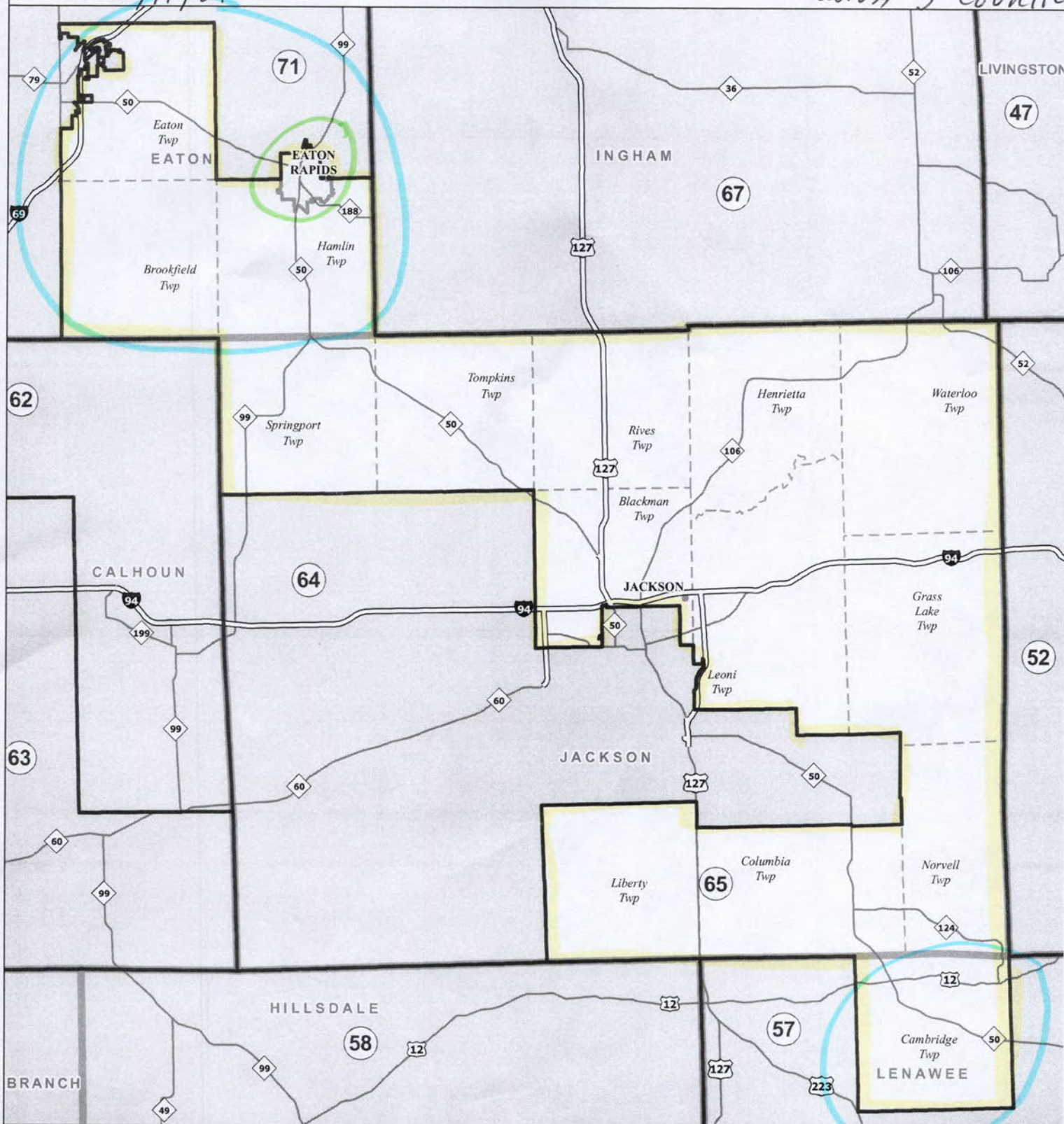


COI Testimony  
from Nancy A. Smith  
5/11/21

# MICHIGAN STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 65 2011 Apportionment Plan

NON-compact  
in shape  
& meanders  
across 3 counties!

0 2.5 5 Miles



Produced by:  
Center for Shared Solutions and Technology Partnerships  
Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget  
12/20/11

Source: Base Map - Michigan Geographic Framework v11a  
Legislative District Boundaries - 2011 Apportionment Plan (as enacted by PA 129 of 2011)

Legend					
	House District		County		Freeway
	City		Township		Highway



May 17, 2021

Members of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission,

I am an independent voter, and am writing to suggest an approach the Commission might use to draw district maps.

Obviously, any map drawn needs to comply with the Commission's charter and the law. It should also go without saying that any district map should be perceived as fair by as many Michiganders as possible.

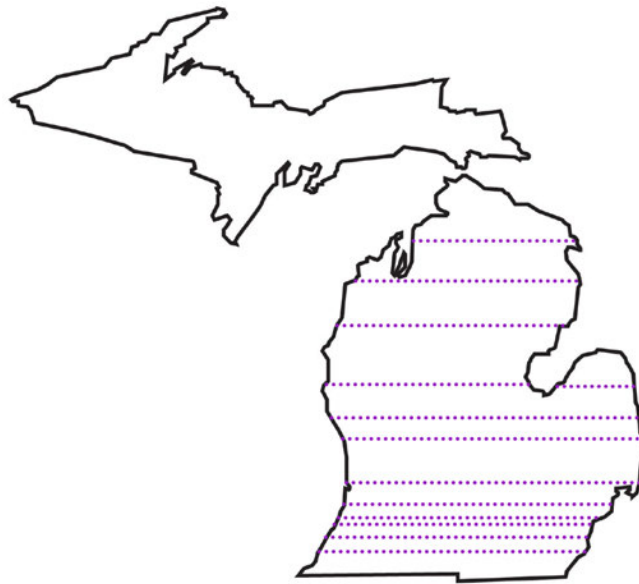
What sorts of districting maps are likely to be judged as fair? I suspect that simple, straightforward maps are more likely to be viewed as equitable than maps that look complicated. A map that looks complicated invites suspicion about the motives of its creators -- suspicion that could lead to recrimination and low acceptance.

I recommend to the commission a "going-in" (initial) approach to redistricting that is very simple, obviously principle-based, and neutral-looking. Michiganders will understand that this proposal is a starting place for discussion, not the final recommendation.

The initial map can be adjusted as needed to reflect communities of interest, which is a requirement of the Commission's charter. It can also be adjusted so that it doesn't divide existing polling places, which is something the Commission may choose to do for expediency.

I will illustrate how to create a simple initial map for Michigan's 13 federal congressional districts, but the sample principal can be applied to creation of a map for more numerous state districts.

First: Start by dividing the state into evenly-populated districts that look like rows, using only straight horizontal lines. Here is a map that divides Michigan into 13 evenly populated rows. The upper peninsula and upper portion of the lower peninsula are grouped together in one row.



This map is clearly drawn using a non-partisan principle. I have no idea whether the end result would be better or worse for any one political party; the point is to design something that doesn't look like it was created with a partisan objective in mind.

This particular map has the advantage of being very simple, and forcing accommodation of east and west attitudes within each district to select representatives that are acceptable to both coasts of the state. It could work as a starting point for drawing a map of federal districts, to be adjusted after communities of interest are taken into account.

Unfortunately, the districts created using this process are rather wide, and it could take time to physically traverse a district from east to west. For the many state districts that need to be created, this approach would result in very wide and thin districts -- too narrow to make sense.

To maintain simplicity, but make the districts less narrow, a variation should be considered:

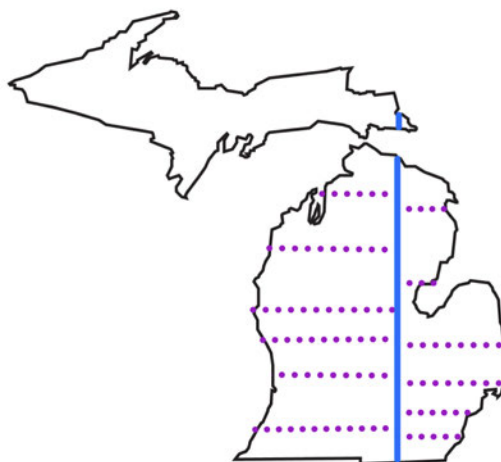
First: draw one (or more) vertical lines that divide the state into two (or more) columns that each contain the same population. I have illustrated this by creating a map with one vertical line.



Then divide each vertical column with horizontal lines that create equal sized districts.

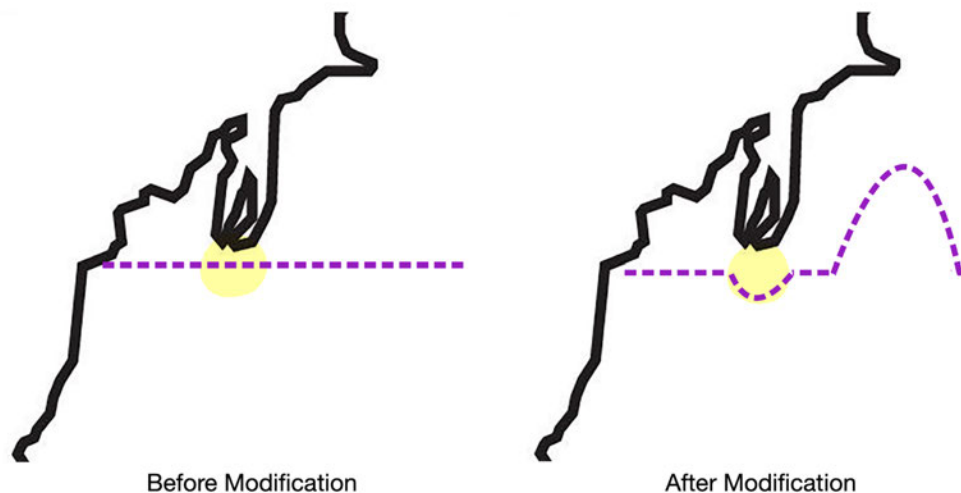
If an odd number of districts need to be created, the demographer who helps the commission can show how to shift a vertical line to the left or right, so that one of the columns can have more horizontal lines than the others, and still keep the population in each district equal.

Here is an illustration that creates 14 districts, using one vertical line.





If a community of interest emerges that is uncomfortable with a straight line, because the community is divided between two districts, and the Commission believes the community's desires should be accommodated, the map can be modified by "appropriating" some territory to include the community of interest in one district, and "donating" another territory with an equal population to the district that lost territory during the appropriation process. I illustrate what this would look like here with a modification to a map, where the yellow region represents a community of interest that the Commission desires to keep in one district.



My thinking is that the territory exchange would not be so common as to obscure the essential principle behind the map. It would still look simple -- not gerrymandered.

The same accommodation process could be used to adjust lines to conform to existing polling sites. I am not sure whether consideration of territory covered by existing polling sites is required, but making minor adjustments to the lines to avoid dividing the territory included in each polling site may make voting easier to administer, since every voter who votes in a polling place would be in the same district and could receive the same ballot.

I hope this suggestion is helpful.

Paul Valenstein  
paul@valenstein.org

## **Southwest Detroit 48217 Community Redistricting Proposal: to remain a part of Detroit's District 6**

Historical Connections of Southwest Detroit 48217 community. The 48217 Community is positioned at the southwestern - most tip of Detroit, bounded by the Rouge River to the north, interstate 75 (I-75) to the west, Outer Drive to south, and Bassett street to the East.

Once comprised of both the old Oakwood Heights neighborhood and the larger remaining Boynton community, commonly known as the “48217” after its zip code. The Boynton Community was developed in the 1920’s and viewed as a working - class enclave located within the 48217( zip code). Once located at the end of the trolley line while connecting Southwest Detroit to Downtown Detroit as a residential community for employees of the many local industries and businesses. It was once known as home to immigrants from Hungary, Italy, Native American, Mexico, African Americans and white migrants from the South. A community featuring densely-packed homes, churches and working class residents. 48217 remains a diverse vibrant blue-collar Community Today.

Southwest communities are comprised of various zip codes which make up District 6, all situated in the City of Detroit. Communities such as Springwells, Cork town, Hubbard Farms, Mexican town and Downtown Detroit; representative of the District 6 zip codes, 48201, 48208, 48209, 48210, 48216, 48217 and 48226; all contiguously connected by shared boundaries, thoroughfares, proximity to the New Gordie Howe Bridge (i.e. Fort Street); schools, cultural diversity, environmental concerns, neighborhood diversity and historical makeup. As a portion of Southwest Detroit 48217 Community is represented in District 5 and the majority of the community is represented in District 6. We would like to see it represented in its entirety in District 6. Attached hereto: Dist 6 Map.

Southwest Detroit 48217 also [serves as the gateway to the surrounding downriver communities and is a part of Michigan’s Iron Belle Trail \(a stop at the new Fort Street Bridge Park which commemorates the auto workers labor movement of 1932\)](#). Many of our families settled in during the great migrations from the South to work in the surrounding industries like US/Great Lakes Steel, Zug Island, Ford Automotive and more. If you stand in the middle of Visger Road and Campbell/Bassett Streets stretch out your arms and twist your body you will be in several surrounding cities at once. The area has three Bascule/draw bridges that also connects it to greater Detroit and other areas, Fort Street, Jefferson Avenue and Miller/Dix.



**Historical Fact:** It is one of the first established African-American communities after WWII -- Because it was one of the first Metro-Detroit areas where African Americans could purchase homes/property creating stable neighborhoods. This area help establish the Black-middle-class in Metro-Detroit. It was a self-sustaining area that was a mecca for black-owned businesses; gas stations, stores, jazz clubs, restaurants, hotels, Laundromats, dry cleaners, churches and much more. It, was also home to black professionals; doctors, pharmacists, policemen, florists, bakers, dentists, teachers, lawyers, realtors and one of Michigan's first black hospitals ([Sidney A. Sumby Memorial Hospital](#)) built by black doctors. In addition, it is home to one of the first African American owned Skating Rinks (the Rollercoade) which currently has a satellite in Downtown Detroit, Mark Twain School of Scholars is also located in Southwest Detroit's 48217 Community. One of the community hubs is the Kemeny Recreation Center and Kemeny Park that service seniors, residents and youth throughout Metro Detroit, donated to the 48217 community by a Hungarian family in 1957 who owned various businesses in Delray, Michigan (48209).

The connecting streets, highway and avenues are our boundaries and also serve as shared thoroughfares that connect us to the neighboring/borderline cities of Melvindale, Lincoln Park, Dearborn and greater Detroit. Our children attend grade school and high school, throughout these communities such as Western International High school and others in surrounding neighborhood communities.

### **Connecting thoroughfares**

Fort Street  
Schaefer/Coolidge Hwy  
W. Outer Drive  
Vernor  
Jefferson Ave

### **Hubs**

Churches; St. John AME, Union Second Baptist, New Mt. Hermon, Southwestern, Pine Grove, Water Fall, Gordy Memorial, First Tabernacle, Gospel Center  
Kemeny Recreation Center and Kemeny Park  
Schools  
Businesses

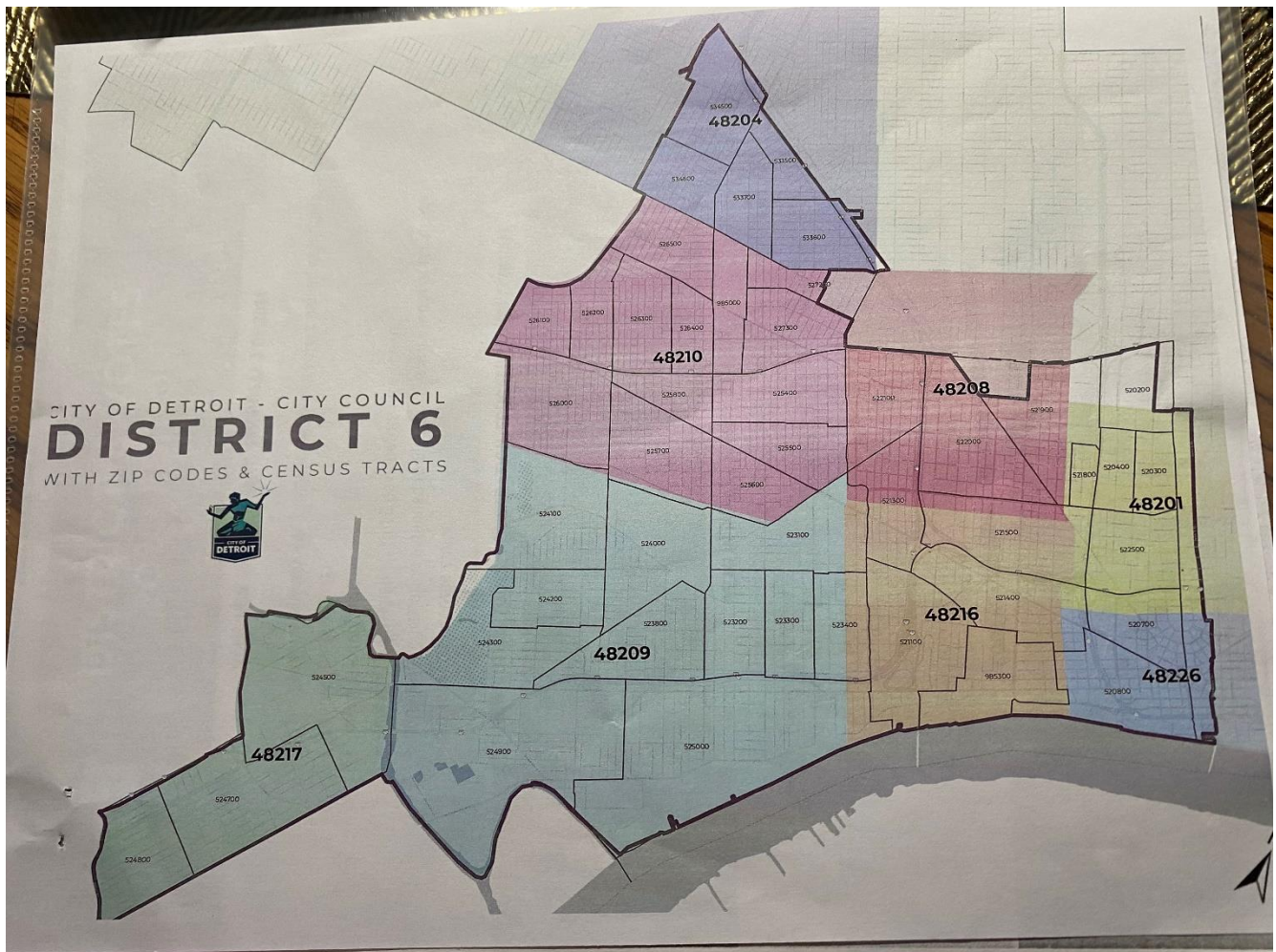
### **Zip Codes connecting District 6:**

48201  
48204  
48208  
48209  
48210  
48216

48226

48217- We want to have 48217 represented in its entirety in District 6 as a portion falls in District #5;

***Respectfully submitted: The 48217 Redistricting Committee***



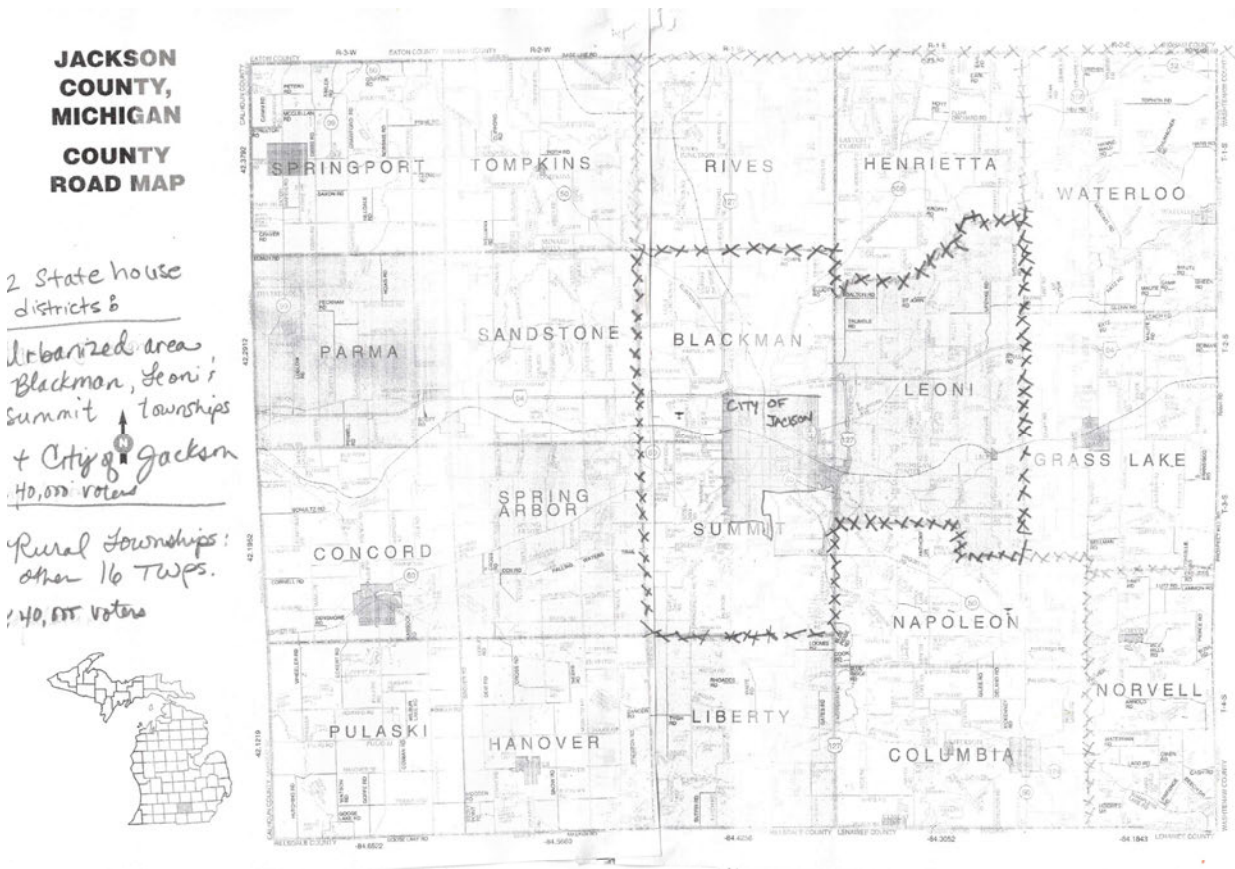
***Respectfully submitted: The 48217 Redistricting Committee (6-29-2021)***

The map provided shows my proposed configuration. Three townships: Blackman, Leoni and Summit plus the City of Jackson make one district. The remaining 16 rural townships form the second district in the County.

This configuration would allow for representation of metro and urban issues such as regional water and sewer infrastructure planning, road maintenance, education funding. planning and zoning, and transit.

I live within this urbanized area AND we have a home in the country: Tompkins Township. I am honestly more of a country girl. Buying in the city where I did, near the Cascades Falls Park, turned out to be an extremely smart move. We are less than a block from two city bus stops, a major non-urbanized trail network, and 1.5 miles to downtown with the Carnegie Library. My grocery store that I visit every other day is just a mile and a half away. We have a choice of three public elementary schools within 2 miles of home, are just blocks from the Junior High and less than a mile to the High School. In Tompkins we relied on fuel oil and wood to heat the home. Because of my location in the city I enjoy access to natural gas and high speed internet.

Despite fulfilling a lifelong dream to own a home and wooded property in Tompkins in 2010, in 2017 I moved us into the City of Jackson to better accommodate life as a working mom. I was looking for a chance to be less reliant on driving. Thank you for listening to our comments. Sincerely, Monica Day

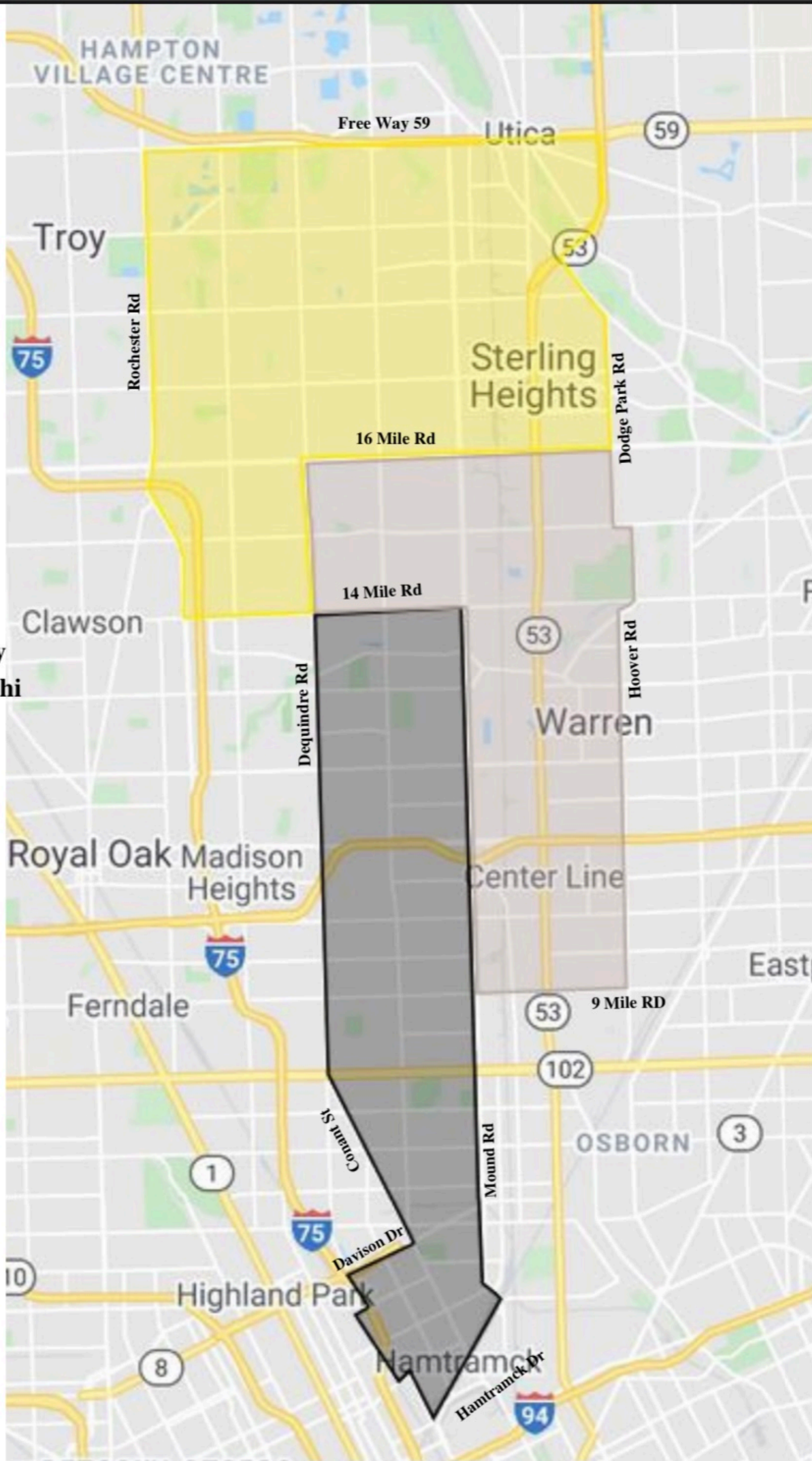




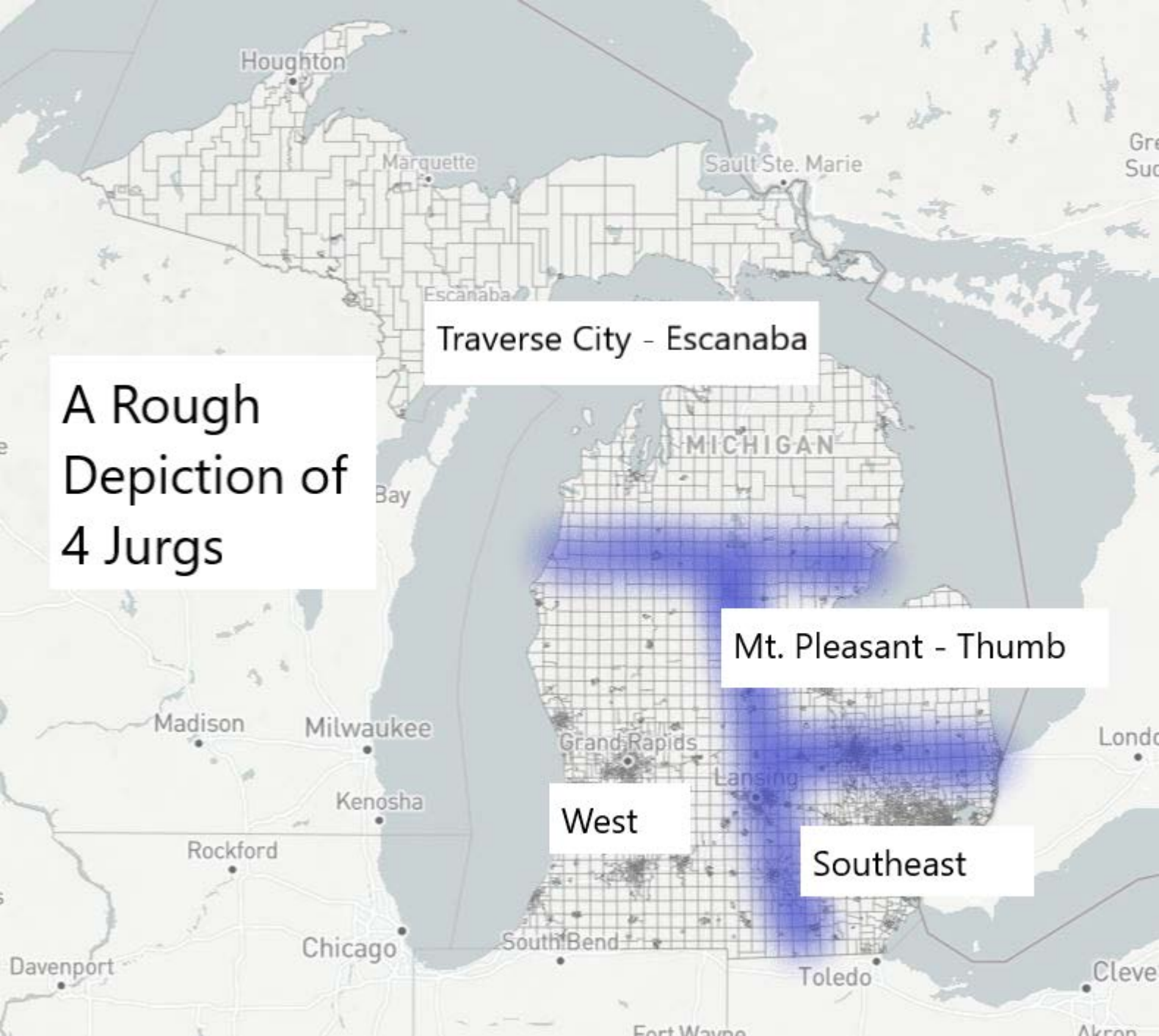
**Slightly  
Populated South  
Asian community  
includes  
Bangladeshi**

**Moderately  
Populated South  
Asian Community  
includes Bangladeshi  
Community**

**Highly  
Populated  
Bangladeshi  
Community**





A map of Michigan and surrounding areas. A blue shaded region covers the central and eastern parts of the state. Labels include Houghton, Marquette, Sault Ste. Marie, Escanaba, Traverse City - Escanaba, Bay, MICHIGAN, Madison, Milwaukee, Kenosha, Rockford, Chicago, Davenport, Grand Rapids, Lansing, West, Southeast, South Bend, Toledo, Cleveland, Akron, and Fort Wayne.

# A Rough Depiction of 4 Jurgs

Traverse City - Escanaba

Mt. Pleasant - Thumb

West

Southeast

# DOWNRIVER AREA OF SUBURBAN DETROIT

## a “Community of Interest”

*suggested new district boundaries*

### MICHIGAN HOUSE

**H1:** 72,189

SW Detroit  
Ecorse  
Lincoln Park  
Melvindale  
River Rouge

**H2:** 88,595

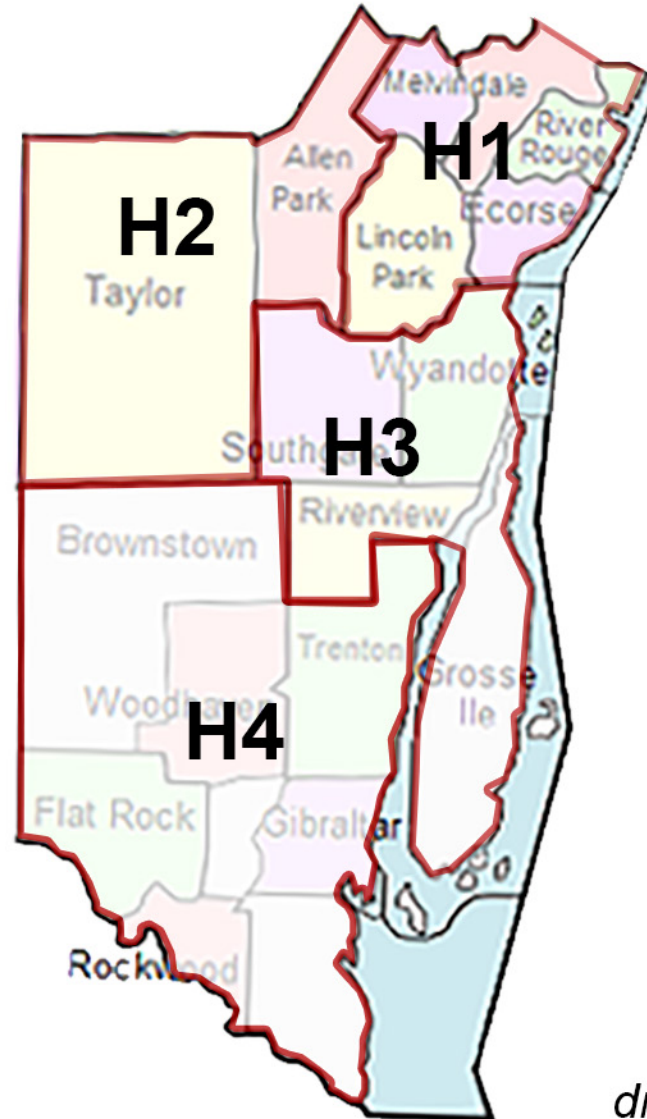
Allen Park  
Taylor

**H3:** 76,505

Grosse Ile  
Southgate  
Riverview  
Wyandotte

**H4:** 80,089

Brownstown  
Flat Rock  
Gibraltar  
Rockwood  
Trenton  
Woodhaven



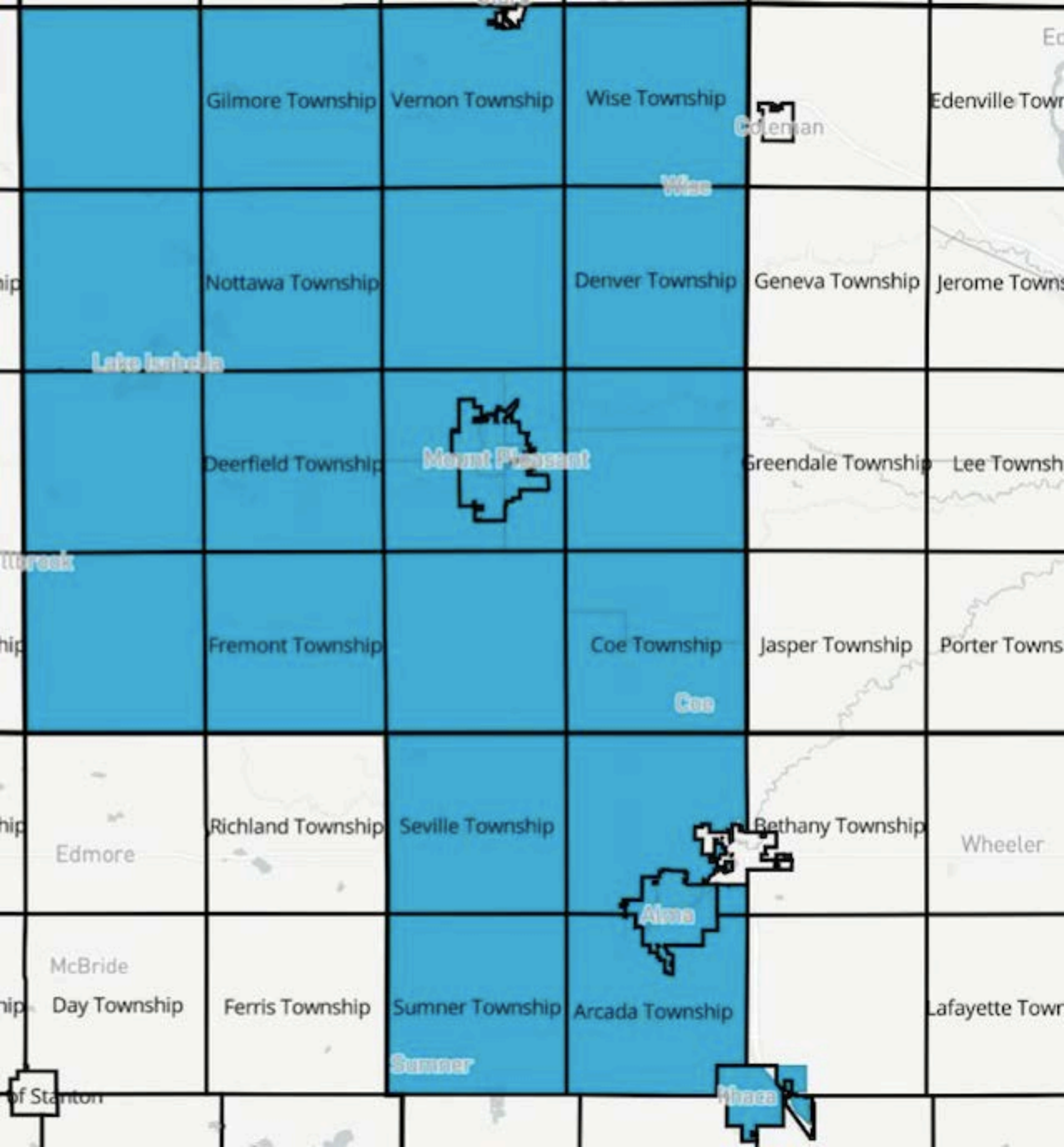
### MICHIGAN SENATE

**S1:** 309,168

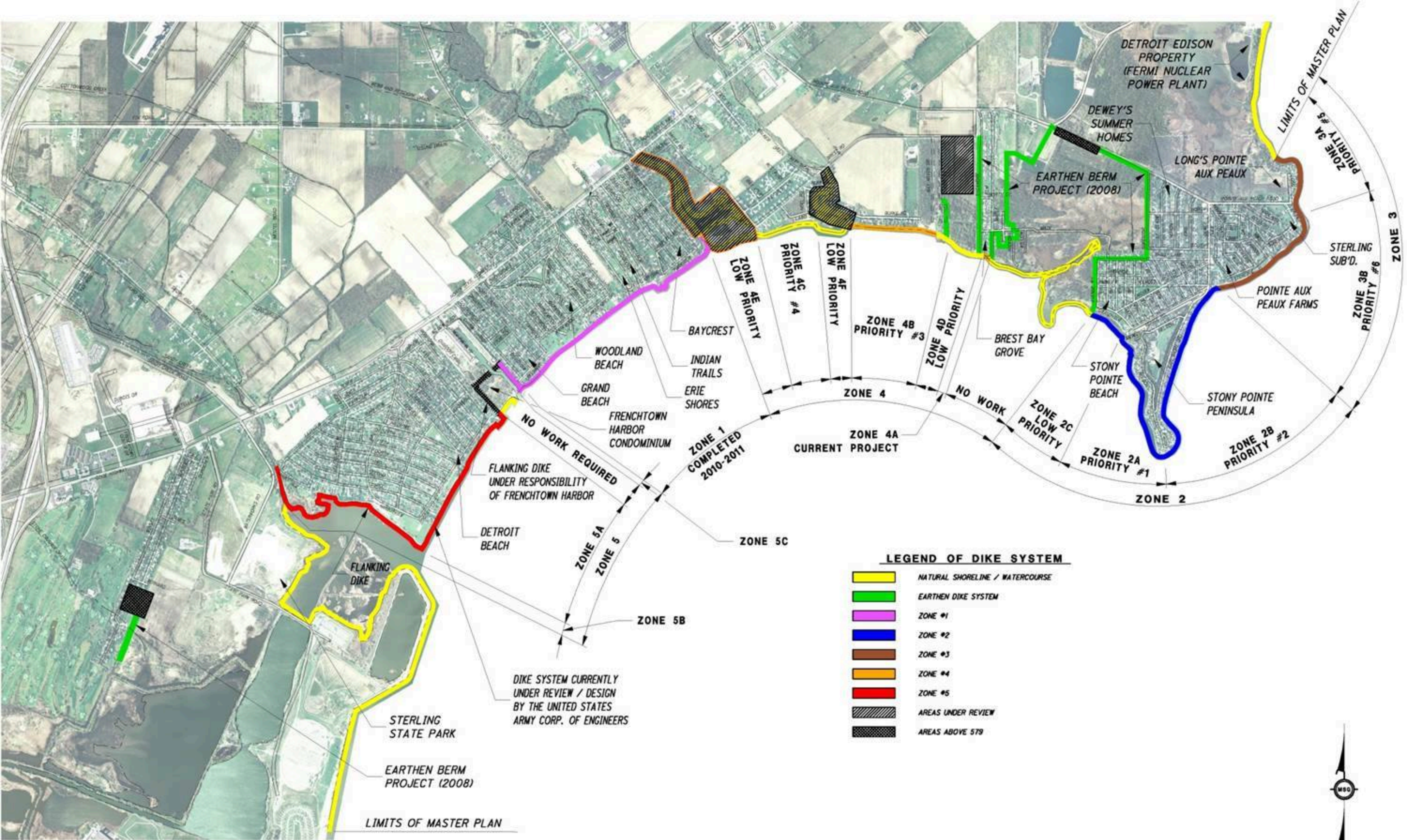
SW Detroit  
Allen Park  
Brownstown  
Ecorse  
Flat Rock  
Gibraltar  
Grosse Ile  
Lincoln Park  
Melvindale  
River Rouge  
Riverview  
Rockwood  
Southgate  
Taylor  
Trenton  
Woodhaven  
Wyandotte



*drafted by Craig Farrand*







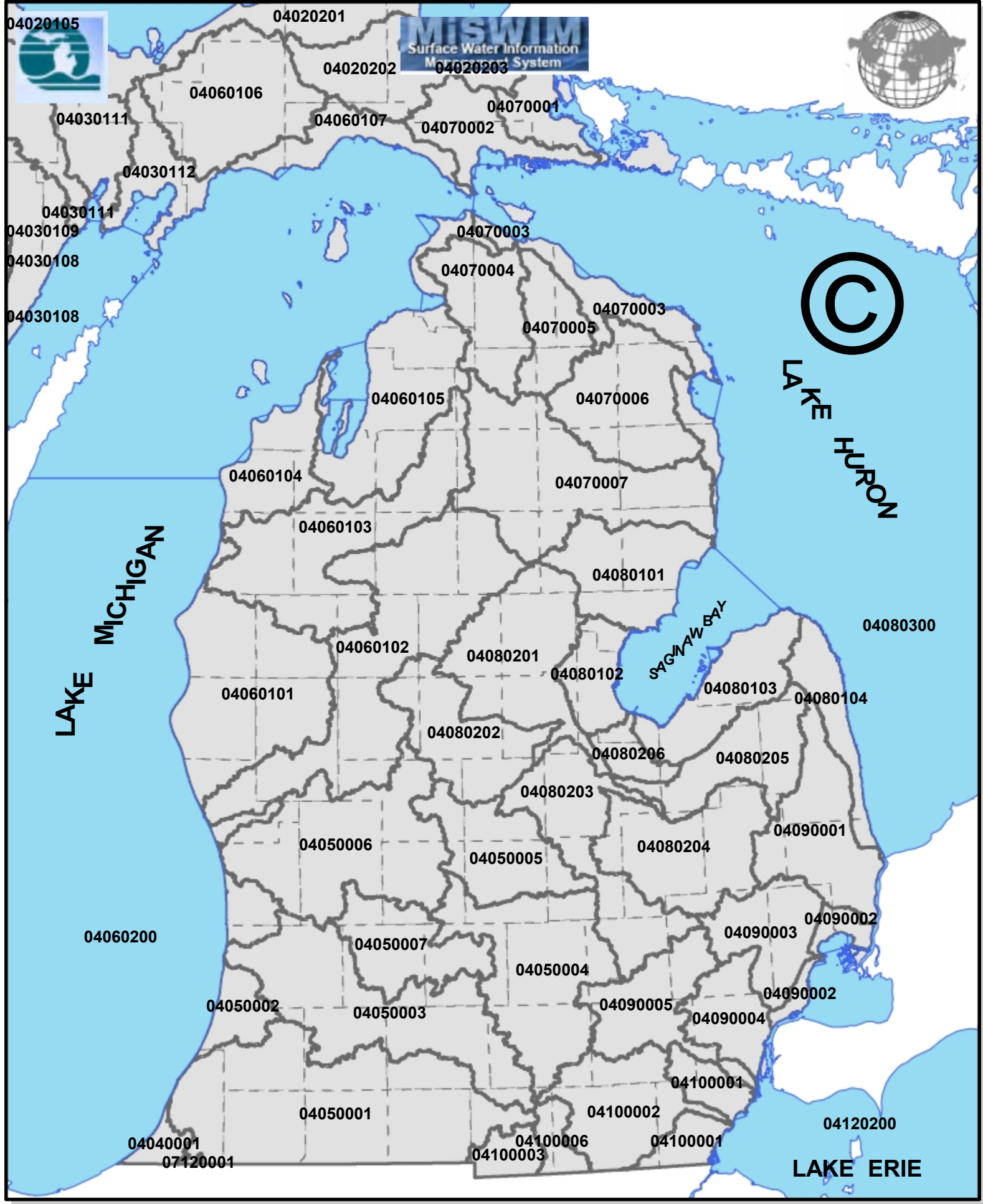
# DIKE REHABILITATION MASTER PLAN





all of Michigan again on...

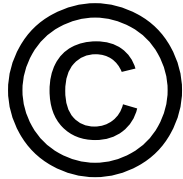




**LP: HYDROLOGIC UNIT CODE (HUC) BASINS**



*LAKE SUPERIOR*



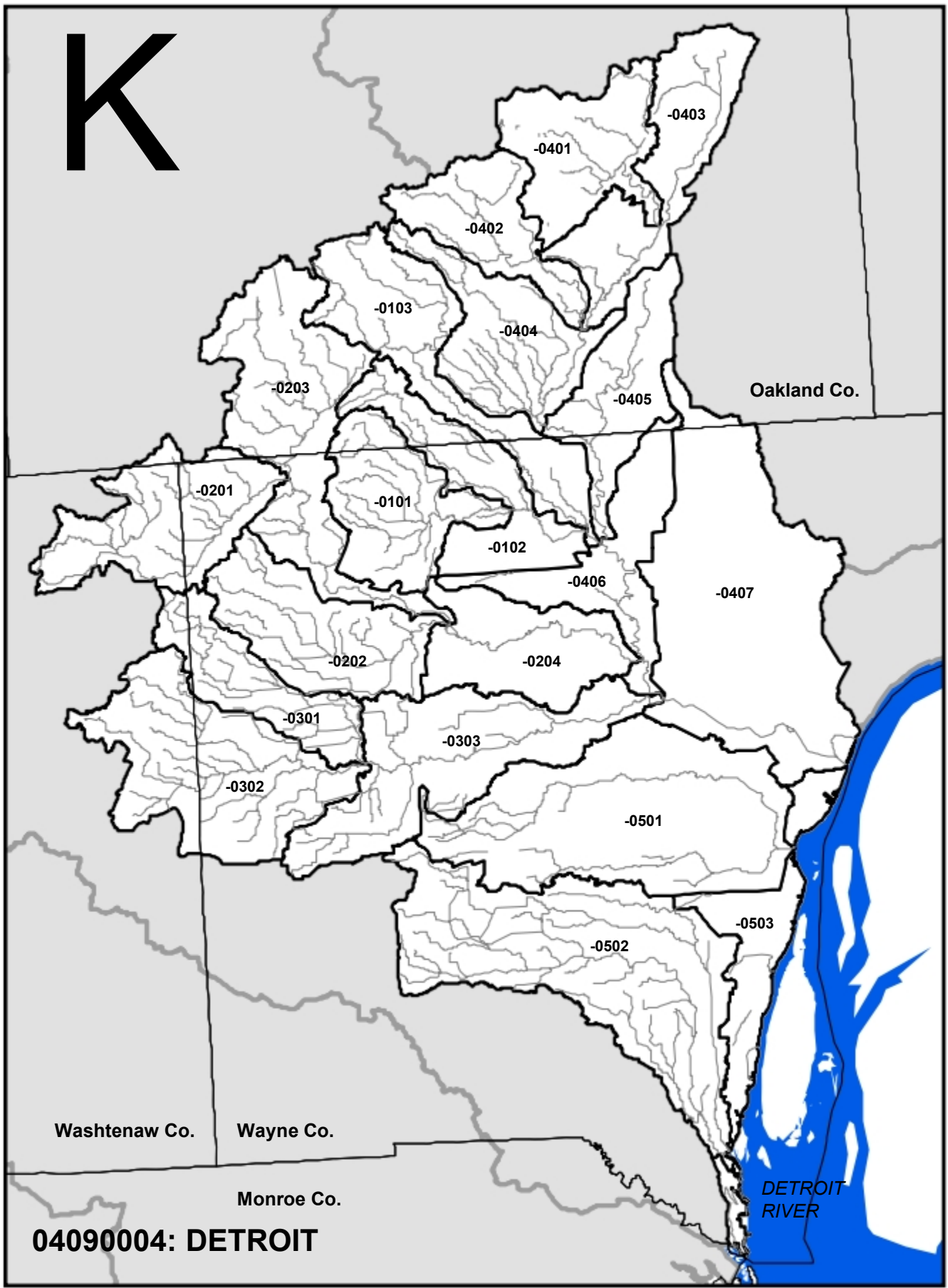
**UP: HYDROLOGIC UNIT CODE (HUC) BASINS**

## USGS Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) Basins

Region	Subregion	Accounting Unit	Cataloging Unit	HUC
<b>Number</b>	<b>Lake Superior</b>	<b>W Lake Superior</b>	<b>SW Lake Superior</b>	<b>Bad-Montreal</b>
04010302	S Lake Superior	S Central Lake Superior	Black-Presque Isle	04020101
			Ontonagon	04020102
			Keweenaw Peninsula	04020103
			Sturgeon	04020104
			Dead-Kelsey	04020105
			Betsy-Chocolay	04020201
			Tahquamenon	04020202
			Waiksa	04020203
			Lake Superior	04020300
Lake Michigan	NW Lake Michigan	NW Lake Michigan	Brule	04030106
			Michigamme	04030107
			Menominee	04030108
			Cedar-Ford	04030109
			Escanaba	04030110
			Tacoosh-Whitefish	04030111
			Fishdam-Sturgeon	04030112
			Little Calumet-Galien	04040001
			St. Joseph	04050001
			Black-Macatawa	04050002
	SW Lake Michigan	SW Lake Michigan	Kalamazoo	04050003
			Upper Grand	04050004
			Maple	04050005
			Lower Grand	04050006
			Thornapple	04050007
			Pere Marquette	04060101
			Muskegon	04060102
			Manistee	04060103
			Betsie-Platte	04060104
			Boardman-Charlevoix	04060105
	SE Lake Michigan	SE Lake Michigan	Manistique	04060106
			Presque Isle	04060107
			Manistee	04060108
			Manistee	04060109
			Manistee	04060110
	NE Lake Michigan	NE Lake Michigan	Manistee	04060111
			Manistee	04060112
			Manistee	04060113
			Manistee	04060114
			Manistee	04060115
			Manistee	04060116
			Manistee	04060117
			Manistee	04060118
			Manistee	04060119
			Manistee	04060120
			Manistee	04060121
Lake Huron	NW Lake Huron	NW Lake Huron	St. Marys	04070001
			Carp-Pine	04070002
			Lone Lake-Ocqueoc	04070003
			Cheboygan	04070004
			Black	04070005
			Thunder Bay	04070006
			Au Sable	04070007
	SW Lake Huron	SW Lake Huron	Au Gres-Rifle	04080101
			Kawkawlin-Pine	04080102
			Pigeon-Wiscoggin	04080103
			Birch-Willow	04080104
			Tittabawassee	04080201
			Pine	04080202
			Shiawassee	04080203
			Flint	04080204
			Cass	04080205
			Saginaw	04080206
	St. Clair-Detroit	St. Clair-Detroit	Lake Huron	04080300
			Lake Huron	04080301
			Lake Huron	04080302
			Lake Huron	04080303
			Lake Huron	04080304
	St. Clair-Detroit	St. Clair-Detroit	St. Clair	04090001
			Lake St. Clair	04090002
			Clinton	04090003
			Detroit	04090004
			Huron	04090005
Lake Erie	W Lake Erie	W Lake Erie	Ottawa-Stony	04100001
			Raisin	04100002
			St. Joseph	04100003
			Tiffin	04100006
	E Lake Erie-Lake Erie	Lake Erie	Lake Erie	04120200
			Lake Erie	04120200
Upper Miss.	Chippewa	Chippewa	Flambeau	07050002
	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Upper Wisconsin	07070001
	Upper Illinois	Upper Illinois	Kankakee	07120001



K



**Source for the key and maps:** Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) (September, 2020). Water quality and pollution control in Michigan. Lansing, MI: Water Resources Division.

([https://www.michigan.gov/documents/egle/egle-wrd-swas-ir2020-finalreport\\_703521\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/egle/egle-wrd-swas-ir2020-finalreport_703521_7.pdf))

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June 27, 2021

Dear Process Committee:

It was nice to hear in your meeting on 6/25 that members of the committee read written comments regularly. It is disappointing that some commissioners may feel public comments about “starting fresh” and “drawing lines on a clean slate” are coached or coordinated. I can only speak for myself. I haven’t been coached or coordinated my comments with anyone else. These were the arguments that persuaded many to vote for Proposal 2. No one need be surprised that many still feel this way. Michigan’s existing gerrymander is of “historic proportions” – a phrase I’m got from news coverage of a Federal judge.

**Regarding the 6/25 agenda item, “Where to Start: From Scratch? With JURGS? Criteria 1-7? With Congressional, State House, or State Senate Districts? Geographically? Nesting?” ...**

Some members remained focused on using existing district lines to measure ten-year population changes and as a place to start line-drawing, rather than a clean slate. Hopefully, these sentiments are just due to a lack other options coming to mind. Not referring to previous boundaries will make it easier to defend lawsuits charging the commission with having favored or disfavored any incumbents or candidates.

For examining population changes since 2010 without looking at previous districts, EDS easily will be able to produce a color-coded, zoomable map using county and municipal boundaries, as well as numerical tables of percentage and absolute growth, if they don’t already have provision for that as an overlay in their PC-based software.

While the idea of starting with senate districts sounds like a reasonable compromise, it’ll be must easier to start up the learning curve with only 13 districts to deal with, as your adviser suggested.

It makes sense to start with the top constitutional criteria. Determine with your VRA adviser how many majority minority districts you need to draw and what part of the state they most likely will be in. I’m presuming you’ll need two, both in the Detroit area. Until you have detailed data, you won’t be able to draw those districts.

You can, however, as EDS suggested, make a first pass at the state, forming 4 Jurgs or broad regions. Fuzzy lines are a good way to ease into line-drawing. Certainly, many people consider there to be major differences between “up north,” “the west side,” and “the east side,” and within the east side, between “the Southeast” and the remainder of the east side – so make those descriptions the basis for 4 jurgs. By leaving the southeast broadly defined, you’ll reserve plenty of room for the VRA congressional districts as well as some others.

Attached is one tactical approach in three easy mental steps to forming 4 jurgs or super jurgs, based on some mapping experience. (Don’t try this at home on an actual map,



until after July 1! You can probably do it in your head before then.) From there, it's not very hard to start forming congressional districts.

Regarding how to designate districts under development, may I suggest you refer to them by their principal municipalities until they are finalized? Then they can be numbered on a proposed map.

Existing Michigan districts have been numbered by their most westerly and most northerly points. District numbers have started at the western end of the UP, then cross to the Lower Peninsula. In the UP, the second and subsequent district numbers have been assigned by based on the next most westernmost point and if districts share that longitude, then by their northernmost point. After crossing to the LP, the next number is assigned to the district with the northernmost point and if districts share a latitude, then by their westernmost point. This numbering scheme will maintain as much consistency with old district numbers as possible, is entirely objective and can be automated.

Since commissioners can't draw without population data, may I suggest the committee recommend commissioners delve deeply into the large volume of written and oral COI submissions until census data is available, including determining/explaining their understandings of ambiguous submissions so interested people or groups can clarify?

Finally, some consultants don't seem to have absorbed the Michigan constitutional criteria for districts yet or much about state characteristics. It's important the other consultants, MDOS staff and commissioners continue to advocate for our constitution and our COIs.

Thank you for all that you are doing for our state and our communities.

Gary Morehead  
Auburn Hills, MI

## A Note for the 2020 and 2030 Commissions

The following comments assume there is not sufficient time to execute this approach in this census/redistricting cycle.

1. Leave a note for the Secretary of State to ask academics the year before the next commission is appointed to generate (literally) millions of possible maps and to score them **according to criteria you will have used.**
2. **This year, develop and use criteria and weighting as described below. It will make your job much easier. If you don't like the results of using fixed criteria, you always have the option to adjust the criteria so the results are what you consider to be more equitable and reasonable, or to override them in specific instances with good justification. Employing these criteria will simplify your documentation requirements.**
3. Because the 2030 maps would not be drawn with reference to previous boundaries, but only with respect to geography and populations, and the scoring and weighting would not refer to incumbents or candidates, there could be no claim of favoring or disfavoring any incumbents or candidates.
4. The first 3 constitutional criteria for evaluating the computer generated maps are black-and-white – whether a map passes the appropriate equal population test and whether all districts generated are contiguous and that the districts cover the entire state. Maps that fail these tests need go no further in an evaluation process. Other criteria involve degrees of comparison.
5. The commission would have to provide the map generator with criteria for automatic scoring of other criteria and a weighting system that reflects prioritization of the criteria. **You, too, should have such a scoring and weighting system. Ask an academic for help, if this is not a part of your present advisers' roles.**
6. The geographical component of communities of interest submissions would need to be encoded for the support for or disruption of COIs could be automatically assessed in terms of raw number of COIs interfered with. If different COIs were to be assigned different values or different values were desired by type of district, the commission would need a way of making those assessments.
7. VRA assessments are often considered difficult and nuanced. These might have to be performed manually. Alternatively, several versions of the VRA districts could be prepared manually for use as “givens” in map generation.

Only the best scoring, significantly different maps would need to be reviewed by the commission. They could be accepted or adjusted.

## Forming Four Jurgs (After July 1)

The divisions suggested below are “fuzzy” – not meant as boundaries, as discussed in today’s meeting. They are just to provide an initial framework for a first “stab” at drawing any one of the three maps.

1. Draw a thick fuzzy line across the lower peninsula along M-55. It runs from Manistee on Lake Michigan through Cadillac and Houghton Lake to Tawas City on Lake Huron
  - Don’t worry about splitting counties at this stage
  - Call the area north of this line the Traverse City – Escanaba Jurg
2. From M-55 going south, draw an even thicker and fuzzier line based on US-127 from Houghton Lake to Mount Pleasant to Lansing to Jackson to the state line
  - Similar to step #1, don’t worry about splitting cities at this stage.
  - Call the area west of this line (and south of the M-55 line) the West Super Jurg
3. From US-127, going east, draw your fuzziest line along I-69.
  - Call the area between M-55 and this latest line the Mount Pleasant – Thumb jurg
  - Call the area south of I-69 the Southeast Super Jurg
  - You now have four meaningful “regional” subdivisions of the state

By drawing these lines, you have committed to nothing, but you’ve made a start. These lines are unlikely to survive further work.

This is as far as you can go without population data.

Later, when you have population data, you may find *very approximately* the following number of districts within each of these areas and/or by extending into an adjoining area. (This does not take COIs into consideration.)

	Rough Number of ...		
	CDs	SDs	HDs
Traverse City – Escanaba Jurg	1	2.5	8.5
Mount Pleasant – Thumb Jurg	1	2.5	8.5
West Super Jurg	4	10	34
Southeast Super Jurg	7	17	59
Total	13	32	110

## Refining (non-Super) Jurgs

First (after July 1 and after population data is available), start in the Traverse City – Escanaba jurg. As a first move, tentatively select which counties on the edge of the jurg to include and exclude, without splitting, to come as close as you can to acceptable Congressional district populations. Move to the Mount Pleasant – Thumb jurg and repeat the process.

Now, evaluate how you're doing on the seven criteria in priority order, for each jurg:

- X Each area probably doesn't yet have acceptable populations, but you're getting there.
- ✓ There are unlikely to be VRA issues in these areas. (Check with your VRA specialist.)
- ✓ There are no other known Federal legal requirements.
- ✓ Each area is contiguous.
- ✓ These areas lack population diversity, but it is difficult to see how that can be helped.
- ? Have you broken up any communities of interests?
- ✓ These two areas disproportionately favor one party. That should be acceptable if two other areas formed later, such as the VRA districts, favor the other major part.
- ? It is too early to assess whether the plan for the entire state which includes these two areas creates a disproportionate advantage for any party.
- ✓ Because you have not drawn these areas with reference to previous boundaries, and worked only with geography and populations, it is clear your work so far has not been done to favor or disfavor any incumbents or candidates.
- ✓ You've followed county boundaries so far.
- ✓ The two areas are compact.

Adjust the boundaries for any "cracked" COIs at the municipality level and then adjust the western and southern boundaries of each areas as needed to more closely meet the equal population requirement and the COI requirement.

Congratulations, you now have two tentative Congressional Districts.

Maybe you would like to try to draw senate districts in one of these areas next, using more or less the same process of stepwise refinement as above. I would recommend starting at the western end of the UP and stopping when you reach the Straits. Then switch to house districts in UP, again stopping when you reach the Straits. You'll now have experience drawing all three kinds of districts and the public will have a chance to give comment on your process, as well as the results.

Then complete the senate and house districts in the rest of the northern jurg and draw them in the Mount Pleasant – Thumb jurg.

Again, none of these districts are set, until the full map is set. There will be changes.



## **Breaking Down Super Jurgs**

Next (again, after July 1 and after population data is available) in the Super Jurgs, check with your VRA specialist to see where areas of potential concern are.

Start in the Super Jurg with the most concern – likely the Southeast one.

In the Southeast Super Jurg:

- First form majority minority or other VRA congressional districts as needed (two?), perhaps working from downtown Detroit outward, initially using Woodward Avenue as a dividing line, unless VRA analysis suggests otherwise
- Roughly form a Howell – Ann Arbor – Adrian – Monroe Jurg using county boundaries
- Roughly form a Flint – Pontiac Jurg including Genesee County, the City of Pontiac and Oakland County municipalities north and west of Pontiac
- Form an area including Lapeer and St. Clair counties, the remaining municipalities of Oakland County north of Troy and Macomb county municipalities north of M-59.
- Form the (two?) remaining areas from western Wayne, southern Oakland and southern Macomb Counties
- Evaluate and refine these Jurgs.

Finally, in the West Super Jurg, roughly form the following Jurgs at the county boundary level

- A Lansing – Jackson Jurg
- A Muskegon – Big Rapids – Cadillac Jurg
- A Grand Rapids Jurg
- A Kalamazoo – Battle Creek Jurg
- Evaluate and refine these Jurgs

Your final products may not look anything like these areas, but hopefully this procedure makes it easy to start.

May 13, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Michigan Independent Citizen's Redistricting Commission (MICRC).

My name is Rob Richardson, along with my wife and two sons, we farm 3500 acres in southern Kalamazoo County and northern St. Joseph County. We grow seedcorn, soybeans, wheat, green beans, oats and hay.

We live in Section 31 of Brady Township, the 63<sup>rd</sup> District of the Michigan House of Representatives.

Our community of interest is agriculture. Agriculture is a vibrant, diverse industry in the State of Michigan. It is also a large economic engine to the overall success of the State of Michigan.

There are many issues important to agriculture that we need to make sure our elected officials understand. In Southwest Michigan, the ability to irrigate our crops is very important. With that comes the Water Withdrawal Assessment tool. Other issues are The Right To Farm, and Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practice (GAAMP's). Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture (MAAA). Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). Other long standing programs are Farmland and Open Space Preservation (PA 116), and Proposal A regarding property taxes on farmland.

My suggestion to the MICRC would be this: Respect existing boundaries of Townships, Villages, and Cities. Have some districts, both Senate and House, with a rural feel to them, and some with an urban feel to them. That way our community of interest – AGRICULTURE, can still have our voices heard in Lansing. The 63<sup>rd</sup> District of the Michigan House of Representatives meets that criteria for our community of interest.

Thank you,

Rob Richardson

Public Comment given at Pontiac MICRC Hearing  
6/10/2021 Commenter #5

My name is Gary Morehead and I live in Auburn Hills.

First, thank you for all your hard work. You're doing great work for everybody.

And here's a shout out to Commissioner Clark for a great presentation at the Clarkson library on Monday. He won over a crowd that was very skeptical about this commission.

Second, please maximize the number of competitive districts at every level. Start fresh; draw new maps; the old maps were a partisan gerrymander.

Nationally, 85% of congressional districts are not competitive and 40% of state legislative races have only one candidate as a result of gerrymandering.

This commission was created to end that kind of thing.

Please bear in mind that the terms "Rural" and "Urban" can be code for party identification. You can respect communities of interest while also drawing districts that don't "pack" and confirm people in their partisan echo-chambers, which are very unhealthy for democracy. Use census data on commuting patterns. Truly agricultural communities work on and near farms. Commuter communities don't.

Third, please count prisoners in their home towns, which is where they will vote unless convicted or would be most likely to vote after serving a sentence.

Finally, my COI: Bouncing back from loss of industry is the common bond shared by Pontiac, Flint, and the areas around and between them where many of their workers live.

Putting these communities together in a congressional district would enhance representation for their re-building, with a focus on jobs for people who work in those cities including those who live outside them. If Pontiac and surroundings are included in a Detroit Metro-oriented district, its unique interests as a smaller urban center are more likely to be overlooked.

Thank you.

Proposed Congressional District  
Based on Two Similar, Adjoining Communities of Interest  
and a Smaller, Subsumed Community of Interest

Submitted by: Gary Morehead, Auburn Hills, MI  
Commenter #6, Pontiac MICRC Hearing, 6/10/21

District Shape File: <https://districtr.org/plan/23861>

**Three Adjoining or Overlapping Communities of Interest**

- District Level: Congressional District
- Principle Focus: Two similar non-major-metro central city economic hubs and their surrounding areas – Flint in Genesee County and Pontiac in Oakland County
- Secondary, Included Focus: Northwestern Oakland County and Southern Genesee County school districts which form a cultural community of interest based on high school athletic competition
- Shared History: The two central cities are former centers of the automobile industry – both being the homes of General Motors brands – Buick and Pontiac, respectively. The surrounding areas are their “bedroom communities.” For over 50 years, the residential communities of Fenton (which straddles the Oakland-Genesee-Livingston Counties borders), Holly (Oakland) and Schwartz Creek (Genesee) have shared in high school sports competition across county lines; gradually, other nearby districts joined them, including the border school districts of Brandon (Oakland) and Goodrich (Genesee) and most recently, Lake Fenton (Genesee, 2019). High school sports are an important cultural activity in these areas and bind these school districts together in friendly rivalry.
- Shared Interests: The central cities are de-industrialized today. They are rebuilding and revitalizing. Along with their surrounding commuter residential areas they seek economic and employment development. The economic interests of the residential areas are enhanced when the central cities prosper. Where the two economic areas of shared interest adjoin, the area of shared sports activity overlaps the county line.
- Physical Connection: The I-75 corridor is the main artery in this part of the state and connects the two areas. The Flint and Pontiac areas adjoin each at the areas served by the Fenton, Holly, Brandon and Goodrich schools.
- Aims: Improve representation of unique re-developmental and growth needs of these two non-major-metro central cities and the people who live in them or live nearby and work in them, to maximize employment and economic development, and to maintain and reinforce the sense of community that exists at the border between the two counties.
- A large proportion of the workers who live in this proposed district also work there.



### **Included Central Cities**

- Flint
- Pontiac

### **Included Surrounding Areas**

- All of Genesee County
- Northwestern portion of Oakland County generally along or near the I-75 corridor - the equivalent of just over 11 geographical townships –
  - Holly, Groveland, Brandon, Rose, Springfield, Independence, Orion, Highland, White Lake and Waterford townships and jurisdictions within them, and
  - Sylvan Lake, Auburn Hills, Pontiac, and the entirety of the City of Pontiac School District, including areas served by the district just outside the city of Pontiac

Flint, Pontiac and their respective surroundings constitute similar economic hub areas in that they are each a non-major-metro central city with a surrounding residential area. The interests of these two central cities and surrounding residential areas are different from those of a larger, major metro area like Detroit and surroundings, often turning towards the smaller- or more human-scale, away from the “big city” or “rat race” of the metropolitan area, sometimes being a little more “home grown” rather than national- or global-scale, and even in the central cities, maintaining some elements of “home town.”

The representational interests of Pontiac and its nearby areas will be better served in combination with those of Flint and its nearby areas than they would be in a Metropolitan Detroit oriented congressional district. Certainly, the same could be said about Flint. The people living between the two cities relish living away from “the city.”

With central city, suburban and rural areas, this proposed congressional district would have somewhat greater population diversity than the state as a whole. It likely would be a “swing” district in which candidates each major party could succeed, depending on the contemporaneous political climate.

### **Reasons for Excluding Other Adjacent Residential Areas**

- Tuscola and Saginaw Counties share more interests with the Tri-Cities area - Saginaw, Bay City and Midland
- Lapeer County shares more interests with other Thumb Counties
- Shiawassee County shares as many or more interests with Lansing or rural counties as it does with Flint
- Livingston County's interests are split between Lansing and the Detroit Metro Area
- Areas in Oakland County to the south of the designated area relate much more strongly to the Detroit Metro Area
- To the east of the designated area in Oakland County, Oakland Townships, Rochester and Rochester Hills relate more to the Detroit Metro Area, and form their own community of

interest; and along with Addison Township, relate well with Macomb County communities immediately to their east.

Whether to include Oxford Township or Highland Township in this Congressional District or both or neither is mainly a matter of meeting the equal population requirement. 2020 Census data is not available at the time of this proposal.

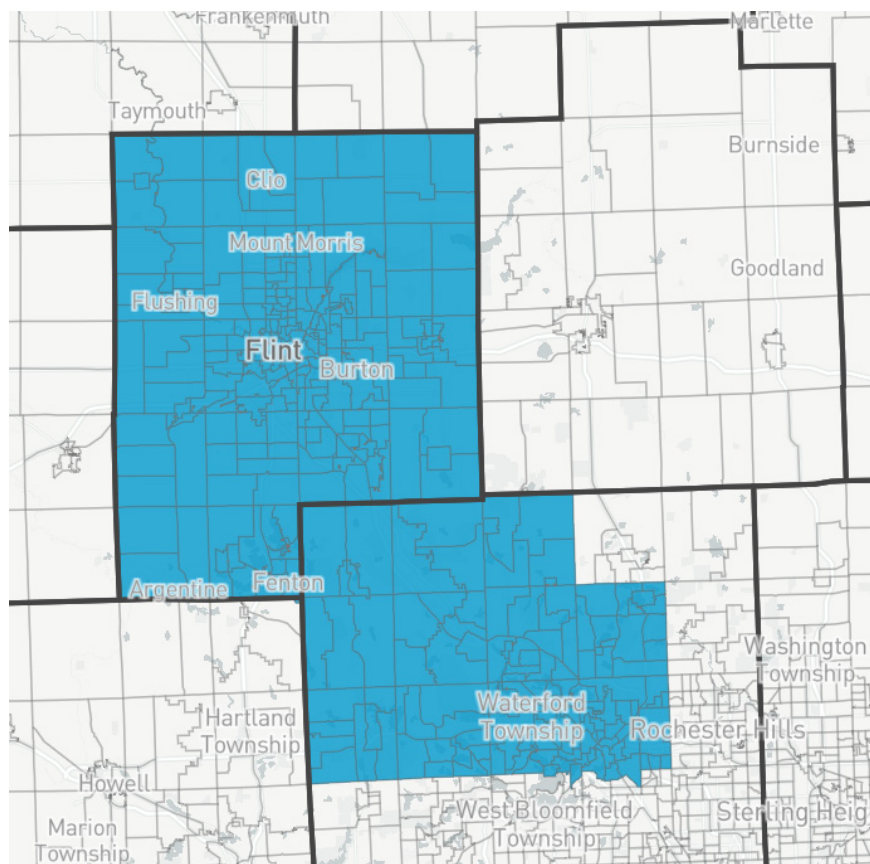
### Analysis

A congressional district with this set of boundaries:

- meets the 2020 congressional district equal population requirement within 1% - based on 2010 population data,
- includes a population more diverse than the state as a whole, is contiguous and compact,
- has very equally balanced two-party vote shares - which encourages a healthy, competitive democracy, and
- keeps Genesee County whole.

Oakland County is too populous to be represented by a single Congressional District.

### Map



Flint Metro League				
County	Border Status	Municipality	School	Nickname
Oakland	At county border	Brandon Township	Ortonville Brandon	Blackhawks
Oakland	At county border	Holly Township	Holly	Bronchos
Genesee		Argentine Township	Linden	Eagles
Genesee		Corunna	Corunna	Cavaliers
Genesee	At county border	Fenton	Fenton	Tigers
Genesee		Flushing Township	Flushing	Raiders
Genesee		Genesee Township	Flint Kearsley	Hornets
Genesee	At county border	Goodrich	Goodrich	Martians
Genesee		Owosso	Owosso	Trojans
Genesee		Swartz Creek	Swartz Creek	Dragons
Genesee		Vienna Township	Clio	Mustangs

## Testimony for the MI Independent Redistricting Commission Hearing

July 1, 2021

My name is Lynn Mason. I live in Ionia County Michigan. I live in the Township of Otisco and my address is Belding, MI. I have lived in this area virtually my entire life. I am a retired Belding Area Schools teacher and, with my husband, own and operate an apple farm.

First of all, thank you all for stepping up and into this role. Thanks for your efforts to make a positive difference.

Have you ever made a dish to eat only to discover that it was bad? The taste, the texture and the look was just wrong. Chances are that you wouldn't just tweak the recipe, you would most likely scrap it and start over.

This is the same scenerio that I see when looking at House Districts in our state. Tweaking can't fix it. Scrap it and start over!

At this time, when confidence in our electoral process is at an all time low, I feel good that this commission is ready, willing and able to make the process better for all.

Looking through the lense of an educator; fairness, equity, and reasonableness are what I am looking to find as you work through the process.

As a person with experience in campaigns, it is very obvious that voters/citizens have no idea what their districts look like, whether talking about State House, Senate or U.S. Congress. The number of questions I have received over time about why our district looks the way it does are too numerous to count. Here in the 86th House District, just looking at the shape of the district and which communities are connected makes one scratch their heads. They seem non-sensical. How does Ada and Cascade fit with Lyons, Orleans, Ionia, Belding? Urban vs. Rural, Wealthy vs. Low Income, Freeways vs. Dirt Roads, Metro Transportation vs. hour long School Bus rides. The comparisons are numerous.



Should it take an hour or more to get from one end of the district to another?  
Should small cities be split between House Districts?

When a House District is so gerrymandered that one candidate has to do very little work while the opponent has to work their tail off, that is not fair. The voters never get to see the candidates in the same room, answering the same questions because one candidate doesn't even have to show up.

I urge you to take a very detailed look at what makes sense and is fair. Ionia County standing alone as a House District, assuming the numbers work, makes sense in any number of reasons.

I am hopeful that when your job is done, voters will once again be able to choose their reps as opposed to the reps choosing their voters.

Sincerely,

Lynn Mason

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Belding, MI 48809