

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
April 22nd, 2021 Meeting Public Comment

Date of Submission: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:30 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Jeanne Sekely
Subject: time of public hearing

What time will the hearing in Marquette on May 18th be held (start and end time)? Also where will it be held specifically? I've informally heard this information, but am hopeful these important details will soon be posted for all to find easily.

Thank you,

Jeanne Sekely, Marquette

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Date of Submission: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:38 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: [REDACTED]
Subject: Republican attorney

Good Morning:

I write to respectfully implore you to bring on a second Republican attorney to balance out the left-leaning attorney, Mr. Adelson, to remove any appearance of partisan political bias.

Thank you.

Melanie Greenfield

Date of Submission: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:33 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: [REDACTED]
Subject: UP Public Hearing

Greetings:

I notice there are no Public Hearing dates in the Upper Peninsula, and the most northern location is in Gaylord, Michigan.

The UP is a part of Michigan and it deserves to have a public hearing location too.

Thank you.

Melanie Greenfield

Date of Submission: Monday, April 19, 2021 2:51 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Tom North
Subject: Re: Redistricting

To the Redistricting Committee:

Now that you have ignored the concerns of myself and others who emailed you earlier, and hired an attorney who is a radical left wing extremist, based on his past actions of record, you must now also even the deck by hiring also a right wing conservative attorney. After all, you are supposedly a bipartisan committee. That does not mean that everything and anything you do is bipartisan because that is what you are called. What it does mean is that as a bipartisan committee, everything you do must really be bipartisan in fact. And as a minimum, that includes having even bipartisan representation, which you do not have at all currently. Also, you did not even bother to acknowledge my earlier respectful email, so this time I request a reply. Thanks.

Thomas North

former Probate Judge, Mackinac/Luce Counties

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Date of Submission: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:19 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Coach Jim Fox
Subject: New Procedure for Constructing Fair Legislative District Maps

Hello Members of the Michigan Independent Citizens Commission,

Thank you for the important work you are doing as Commissioners,

To help you in your work, I thought you might be interested in a new method that has been developed for constructing fair legislative district maps. This approach is deliberately transparent, systematic and nonpartisan. The procedure can be, and was, implemented by hand. It can be used to build both Congressional and State Legislative district maps. The approach has received high scores on measures of compactness and fairness and is attracting attention on the Preprints Page of the American Political Science Association (more than 800 views and 375 downloads).
<https://preprints.apsanet.org/engage/apsa/article-details/60132387f0e57e892a97e039> (Scroll down and click on the green circle on that site to read the Guide and paper)

I am aware of the computer-aided redistricting work being conducted by many extremely talented mathematicians at such institutions as Tufts and Princeton. I believe that work is amazingly elegant and sophisticated. At the same time, I understand that many citizens, advocates and jurists, alike (myself

included), simply lack the skills and training to fully understand, and hence fully embrace, such work. (Witness, for example, Chief Justice Robert's comments regarding the related Efficiency Gap measure.)

The new approach is intended to be accessible to all. A Guide which provides a quick overview of the procedure is now available. The Guide provides ready access to the essence of the approach for citizens and commissioners as well as legislators and judges. A paper, "Fair and Square Redistricting," explains, justifies and applies the approach. Michigan was included in the study.

Abstract

"Fair and Square Redistricting" presents a new procedure for constructing fair legislative district maps. This straightforward, transparent, research-based approach is intended to be helpful to those interested in promoting fair legislative district maps. The work draws upon a recent award-winning study of preferences of lay citizens and redistricting experts to construct foundational legislative maps of compact districts. The mapping procedure then builds on that foundation to construct fair maps where the distribution of voting lean across districts matches the distribution of voters statewide. The article opens by discussing the new view of compact districts and describes the procedure for constructing the maps. Foundational maps and fair maps are then drawn for 12 states that have recently been under court scrutiny.

The paper also examines a state legislative map in Wisconsin. Wisconsin, as a whole, contains nearly the same number of Democrat and Republican voters. However, both state chambers contain about twice as many legislators from one party as the other. The "Fair and Square" procedure is applied to construct a fair map with compact districts for the Wisconsin State Assembly. The districts are compact and the map is fair where voter lean across districts matches voter lean in the state as a whole.

Who draws the maps is important, but how they draw them is even more important. As more people become aware of approaches such as this, more are likely to ask, "Why aren't we using approaches such as this to build maps where the districts are compact and the maps are fair?"

I hope this work is helpful to you. Please feel free to use and disseminate this information as you see fit.

Jim Fox

Date of Submission: Saturday, April 17, 2021 9:44 AM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Cathy
Subject: Pledge of Allegiance

I am completely shocked and angered by your refusal to recite our Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America! These are the words that represent this great country we all live in, you have shown complete disrespect for our country and the constituents you represent. I would like the names made public of those who voted against it if they're not already. Shame on you!

And the six that voted for it should have been able to recite it as the others sat and watched! One more notch in the pole for the complete disrespect of our great country!

Cathy Ehgotz

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get Outlook for Android

Date of Submission: Thursday, April 15, 2021 2:30 PM
Method of Submission: Email To <Redistricting@Michigan.gov>
Name: Addison
Subject: Splits within a jurisdiction

Dear Members of the Redistricting Commission,

Thank you for your time and consideration.

I'm writing to you today from a Clerks thought process and splits within a Jurisdiction.

Addison Township is a small community and at one election we may have up to 7 ballot styles (splits) and humbly request no new split lines in the jurisdiction.

In speaking from experience, having this many ballot styles in one jurisdiction, is a bit complicated. When ordering, proofing, issuing ballots and the ballot containers.

(Not complaining as we make it happen! I'm very fortunate to have a dedicated team).

There is nothing one can do to take care of the current splits, Respectfully requesting that while you consider the new districts lines please consider that the lines stay within one jurisdiction or maybe better said the new lines encompass the entire jurisdiction.

In doing so, and most importantly, it decreases the opportunity for error and also decreases expenditures both in the cost of testing, processing and inspectors.

If you have any questions on this subject, please feel free to reach out.

Good luck with your process and thank you for your dedication.

Kind regards,

Pauline Bennett
Addison Township Clerk

