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MICRC

05/27/21 6:00 Public Hearing

Captioned by Q&A Reporting, Inc., www.qacaptions.com

>> CHAIR KELLOM: If people could find their way back to their seat. Good evening and thank you for sticking around and coming back. And thank you and hello and welcome to the new faces that have entered the room. We are excited to be here in Lansing for the public hearing and to hear from all of you in one way or another. Some of you might be listening and that is okay. This is a very exciting and wonderful opportunity to feel empowered and have your voice heard because all of us up here are just like you. We were just randomly chosen for a heck of a job.

So, as Chair of the Commission, I call this meeting of the Commission Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 6:30 p.m.

This Zoom webinar is being live streamed at you tube at www.YouTube.com/michsosoffice/videos.

For anyone in the public watching who would prefer to watch via a different platform than they are currently using, please visit our social media at Redistricting MI to find the link for viewing on YouTube.

Our live stream today includes closed captioning. Closed captioning, ASL interpretation, and Spanish and Arabic translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting. e-mail us at Redistricting@Michigan.Gov for additional viewing options or details on accessing language translation services for this meeting.

People with disabilities or needing other specific accommodations should also contact Redistricting at Michigan.gov.

This meeting is being recorded and will be available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC for viewing at a later date.

This meeting is also being transcribed, and those transcriptions will be made available and posted at Michigan.gov/MICRC along with the written public comment submissions.

There is also a public comment portal that may be accessed by visiting Michigan.gov/MICRC. This portal can be utilized to post maps and comments which can be viewed by the public. And the Commission.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, Communications and Outreach Director for the Commission at WoodsE3@Michigan.gov.

For the purpose of the public watching and the public record, I will turn to department state staff to make note of the Commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good evening again, Commissioners.

Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please announce during roll call that you are attending the meeting remotely from. And unless your absence is due to military duty, announce your physical location by stating the county, city, Township or village and the state from which you are attending the meeting.

Remotely.

Douglas Clark.

- >> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.
- >> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?
- >> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?
- >> CHAIR KELLOM: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?
- >> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present; attending remotely from

Reed City, Michigan.

- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?
- >> COMMISSIONER ORTON: present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?
- >> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?
- >> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janis Vallette.
- >> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?
- >> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present; attending remotely from

Charlotte, Michigan.

- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?
- >> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?
- >> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: All Commissioners are present.
- >> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Ms. Reinhardt. Without objection, Commissioner Rothhorn will provide a presentation.

Hearing no objection, Commissioner Rothhorn, please proceed with welcome and introductions.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Thank you, Chair Kellom. Hello, friends. My name is Commissioner MC Rothorn. Welcome to MICRC public hearing in Lansing. We are happy you are here to learn about Michigan's new redistricting process and how you could engage throughout this process to ensure your voice is heard. I'm going to advance, so you can see the agenda.

In looking at the agenda, please note that the vast majority of our time this evening is spent listening to you. We are eager to hear your ideas either in person or remotely about drawing Michigan's Congressional, House and Senate districts.

In addition to hearing about District lines, we also want to hear your ideas about communities of interest.

At this time I would like my fellow colleagues to introduce themselves and share where they live in Michigan the Great Lake State.

I'll start with Rebecca.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Good evening, everyone. Rebecca Szetela and I live in Wayne County, Michigan.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Hello, everyone. I am Brittini Kellom and I live in Detroit, Michigan.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Hello, everyone. Nice to be here. Nice to see so many people here. I'm from Saginaw, Michigan and live in Saginaw Township.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Good evening. Thank you for coming. I'm Commissioner Cynthia Orton and I live in bit Battle Creek, Michigan

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Good evening. I'm Commissioner Douglas Clark and live in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Good evening. Thanks everyone for coming. My name is Dustin Witjes and I reside in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Hello, everyone. It's great to be here in Lansing. I'm Anthony Eid and I'm from Orchard Lake Michigan.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Welcome everyone. I'm Janis Vallette and I'm from Highland, Michigan.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Good evening, everybody. I'm Steve Lett. And I presently reside in Interlochen, Michigan, having grown up here and worked here until I was retired at 70, so I'm familiar with all of you.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Good evening, everyone. My name is Juanita Curry and I am living in Detroit, Michigan.

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Thank you, Commissioners. So some history, in 2018 more than 61% of Michigan voters intentionally and deliberately passed proposal two, a ballot initiative for voters and not legislatures to take responsibility for map fairness and public feedback in the redistricting process. And they created the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

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For the first time in Michigan's history, the MICRC will lead the redistricting process to draw fair and independent maps.

Comprised of 13 randomly selected Michigan residents that include four who affiliate as democrats, five who affiliate as independents and four who affiliate as republicans through a lottery run by the Michigan Department of State.

The MICRC has the exclusive authority in this new redistricting process for Michigan's Congressional, House and Senate districts

As fellow residents, the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission understands your expectations to draw maps in an open and transparent manner that meets constitutional mandates.

Our mission and vision exemplifies our resolve, not just for today but future generations as well.

In your interaction with the MICRC and its staff, you should witness the core values of integrity, respect, transparency and being purposeful.

Once again, we are glad you are hear and we look forward to hearing from you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Commissioner Rothhorn. Now, without objection, our Executive Director will give a presentation.

Hearing no objection, please proceed, Executive Director Sue Hammersmith, and share about our public hearings.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you, Commissioner Kellom. Good evening and thank you everyone for being here. We are so happy you're with us. This is our sixth public hearing.

To ensure fairness, the MICRC is required to solicit public input during at least ten public hearings before drawing any lines for the State of Michigan. This Commission is hosting 16 public hearings. I like to say they are over achievers.

But I do want to repeat, not a single line has been drawn, nor will it be until after the public hearings are completed in July.

The Constitution lists three purposes for public hearings. First to inform about the process. Second, about the Commission. And, third, to solicit information from you about the potential redistricting plans for Michigan's Congressional house and Senate districts.

What is redistricting? Every ten years following the census, district lines for U.S. Congressional, State Senate, and State House must be redrawn to accurately reflect the changes in the population. The process of drawing the lines is known as redistricting.

In Michigan this group will be drawing 13 Congressional District lines, the lines for 38 Michigan Senate districts, and the lines for 110 Michigan House Districts.

The Commission has about six major responsibilities. First, through the one and only entity that is responsible for drawing the District lines. They operate in an impartial and transparent manner that instills integrity in the process and their outreach represents

fairness, awareness, transparency, and engagement as they seek to meaningfully obtain at least 10,000 distinct public comments in this process.

They also must adopt the maps that have been mentioned. And their goal is to ensure integrity, public availability and accountability for the data, for the public comments and for any information that they gather. And the districts will be drawn in compliance with State and Federal laws.

There are seven redistricting criteria that are mandated in our constitutional amendment that was adopted as mentioned by 61% of the people of our state. First, the Commission must follow Federal laws, which are equal population and following the Voting Rights Act.

Secondly, the districts must be geographically contiguous.

Third, communities of interest must be taken into consideration.

Fourth and fifth refer to partisan fairness. There is no disproportionate advantage that can be given to a political party or they cannot favor or disfavor an incumbent elected official or a candidate.

Sixth, county, city and Township boundaries must be taken into consideration.

And, seventh, the districts must be reasonably compact. That's a tall order.

What are communities of interest? Our Constitution also defines them, saying they may include, but shall not be limited to, populations that share cultural and historical characteristics or economic interests. They do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents or political candidates.

What the Commission wants to know is what would you name your community of interest? What are your common -- what is the common bond that creates your community of interest? What geographic area is your community of interest in? That is why the public comment portal is so important.

What governmental policies are important to you? Or how would keeping your community of interest intact enhance the quality of your representation? And are there areas nearby that either would strengthen or weaken your community of interest?

Why are we here? We are here to listen. We are here to listen from you and to hear from you this evening, so I should quit talking.

And, lastly, why should you care? Well, for the first time ever Michigan residents have a say in the redistricting process. Openness, transparency, and public engagement represent the principles of this new process.

And as the third criteria, we want to hear about the communities of interest. These maps are going to last for the next ten years. So it's critically important that we listen to you this evening and that is what we are here to do. And we thank you for being here.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much, Executive Director Sue Hammersmith. We are an important Commission of 13, not 11. And we, regrettably, zoomed past introductions without acknowledging our Commissioners that are attending remotely.

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So we deeply apologize, but now, Commissioner Lange, you have the floor. And then we will go back to an introduction for Commissioner Wagner.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Good evening. I'm Rhonda Lange. And I'm from Reed City.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Commissioner Lange. Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Good evening. I'm Erin Wagner and I'm from Charlotte, Michigan.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Now we have an awesome 13. And you have met all the Commissioners.

So, without objection, the next item on the agenda is our General Counsel, who is coming to us to provide a presentation.

I don't hear any objection, so without further ado, General Counsel Pastula, please proceed.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I would like to address the public comment guidelines for the benefit of our in-person and remotely attending guests.

The public comment guidelines are that in-person public comments will take place first, followed by remote public comments. The time limit for each public comment speaker is two minutes. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

And there is the yellow countdown clock in the bottom of the screen. If any person disrupts the orderly progress of the meeting or refuses to comply with applicable MICRC guidelines and rules, the Chairperson may rule that person out of order and/or order their removal from this meeting.

Again, a reminder to please provide public comment and/or submit your proposed maps in the public comment portal, which is available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. Thank you again for welcoming us to your community, Lansing.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much, Julianne. We will now move into our in-person public comment. Without objection, we will now begin the public comment portion of our meeting.

Hearing no objections, we will proceed with our public comment.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide in-person public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. Please step to the nearest microphone. When I call your number, you will have two minutes to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when your two minutes has ended and you hear the timer. We are an easy group. We want to make sure though that we honor everyone's time, that we hear from everyone, so it's important to wrap up your sentence when you hear the timer and not to continue or extend beyond that.

Please, again, go to the public comment tool and share your comments in writing, including any specific area of the map about which you are speaking. The public comment tool is at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.

I'm going to call the first four people, if you are comfortable to come to the mics. I'll have one and two stand here. Three and four stand here.

First in line to provide public comment is number one. Please feel free to introduce yourself because you are more than just a number. I just don't know your name. We just don't know your name. And when you approach the mic, you are free to address the Commission.

>> Good evening. My name is Jim Renner from Watertown Township in Clinton County. Watertown borders Dewitt and Dewitt Township as is an integral part of the communities as well as Clinton County.

I chose to live in Watertown over 31 years ago. And could have selected a number of communities since I commuted to Grand Rapids for 31 years. But I chose Watertown since I was made up of individuals and families that had a common interest.

We are interested in maintaining the combination of small town atmosphere. But one that provides services to its residents.

We are interested in quality schools for our children that provide the right balance between academics, activities and athletics. We also are interested in community that is fiscally responsible while remaining responsive to its residents. We are also interested in community within effective police organization and low crime.

We effectively share services such as Road Commission, county sheriff, RESA, budgets, and other common issues successfully for the common good of Clinton County residents. Much of this is attributed to Clinton County being a combination of small towns and farming communities, which provide a comprehensive, conservative approach to managing its affairs.

We have much in common with Gratiot and Eaton Counties since they share our demographics and geography of small, rural, agricultural oriented communities, as well as smaller suburban communities.

On the other hand, Ingham and Eastern Eaton County, Delta Township, with larger populations and universities and different economic base and cultures would, in my opinion, have different concerns than Watertown Township in Clinton County.

Ingham has a very large student population due to its Universities, MSU, Lansing Community College and Cooley Law School. Universities are necessary but they change the demographics of the community. Along with its voting patterns, students become eligible to vote on local issues while not having any long-term attachment to the consequences of their vote.

Thank you and good luck.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much, Jim. Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line we will hear from number two.

>> I'm over here. I got a bad direction.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: It's okay. It's okay.

>> Thank you, Madam Chair, for being here and the rest of the Commission for being here. I want to talk a little about my community. I tried earlier and got a little confused, but I live in Grand Ledge. And my representative in the U.S. Congress is an hour-and-a-half, about an hour and 40 away from me. They live in a, you, know agricultural, rural community. And my city is growing and expanding to become more urban and it's going to keep growing for the next ten years.

If you have been over off the highway, there is all kinds of new construction going up by Grand Ledge. So I think it's important we have communities that are alike. Like the gentleman who was just here, you know, we have different communities, different needs. And I just wanted to bring that to your attention so and I want to thank you guys again for being here.

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

>> Hello. My name is Julie and thank you for doing this. We appreciate you. I currently live in the Fourth Congressional District. And also in the City of East Lansing.

So I live five minutes from MSU's campus. I share a Congressional District that is -- excuse me, share a Congressional District with Central Michigan and Ferris State University.

My parents who have retired up to Higgins Lake are literally one block from sharing the same Congressional District as me, which they are nearly two hours away.

When I go to work, I have to drive through the 8th Congressional District to go to Delta Township, which is located in the 7th Congressional District.

My belief is that since I work, shop, play in Lansing or East Lansing that I should be sharing the same Congressional District as, you know, with people that live in Lansing and East Lansing.

My issues may not be the same as somebody that lives up in let's say Big Rapids or Mount Pleasant. So thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for addressing the Commission, four.

>> Good evening my name is Dennis Parker and live in St. John's, Michigan.

First of all, I want to say it's about time we have districts drawn on regionalization rather than election results.

I for a moment want to talk about the likeness between Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties. Lansing is the third biggest Metropolitan Area in the state. However, if you look at, we are covered by whether you are from the United Way, the Tri-County Office on Aging or the Community Mental Health, we have regional partnerships already existing there.

If you look at the State House District, someone could live potentially in St. Johns, work in another District, their spouse work in a further District, their children attend school in another District, all with never being further than 30 miles from your house.

I think it's time we look at joining these four in the regional, whether it's the airport, and the municipal cooperation, that could be -- could enhance everybody's positions. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you for taking the time to come out and address the Commission. I'm going to change still four at a time but in a different order so we can move past the mic wiping, which is important. So I'm going to have odd numbers here and even numbers step to this side.

So the next four numbers are 5, 6, 7, 8. I want five and seven here. Six and eight on that side to my right.

And, five, when you approach the mic, you are free to begin addressing the Commission.

>> Good evening and thank you. My name is Mike W. I'm president of the UAW Local 602 here in Lansing. I represent the 2300 active members of the Lansing Delta Township Plant, which is in the Seventh Congressional district. Our union hall is in the 8th Congressional District.

I live in Haslett, Michigan which is in the 69th State House District. I travel to my union hall, which is in the 67th House District. And when I go to my facility to see my membership, I'm in the 71st House District.

On my way home if I'm asked to grab some milk or pick up some dinner, I go to shop in the 93rd House District. And sometimes when I want to speak on any of these issues to an elected official, as you can imagine, it's quite confusing. So also the 4th Congressional District also houses the grocery store that I go to.

So I have 4th, 7th, 8th, 93, 67th, 69th and 71st House districts that I interact with every single day, all the time. And it can be very frustrating to try to discuss issues going on in my facility, Lansing Delta Township, which gets its power from the Board of Light located in Lansing. When I have to deal with the 7th Congressional District federally and then turn if I also need to deal with the power source to the 8th Congressional District. It's mind boggling.

I'm so happy to see you here doing hard work. What I can't imagine what you're going to go through when you try to compress these districts and make them more equitable, make them bonds when we try to discuss bringing additional jobs and resources to the facility.

The Lansing Delta Township plan is the biggest employer in the 7th Congressional District and the 71st House District in the state. So when we look at that we want to try to make it easier, not more difficult to have discussions with elected officials on bringing jobs to this area. So I urge you to try to merge those things together and make it facilitate discussions with our elected officials.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much for addressing the Commissioner. Six?

>> Hello. My name is Eileen. I have a map here. I would like to show. It shows greater Lansing in yellow and in the pink here and then down here is Stockbridge.

The Oxford dictionary says gerrymandering is a verb and denotes action, action against voters. Gerrymander is to manipulate the boundaries of an electoral constituency so as to favor one party or class.

In 2010 republicans drew maps to favor their party. In the 1970s democrats did some map drawing as well. Several terms related to gerrymandering are packing and cracking done by republican lawmakers in 2010 with voter maps.

The latter term cracking is what has been done to the greater Lansing Area. We citizens of Lansing have similar issues as we live our lives. But from the Waverly Road line, extending west, all those citizens are cracked off from Greater Lansing. They are put into the 7th District with a huge group of rural voters greatly diluting their vote. It is intentionally wrong to dilute or take away the power of any legal vote.

In the fall of 2018, I was on business southeast of Stockbridge. And what did I see? But a huge political sign for the 7th District. It was mostly farmland out there.

Now, where is the sense in putting west side greater Lansing voters in with rural Eaton County going west and on a wiggly map which also joins west side Greater Lansing with the rural farm concerns southeast of Stockbridge? The only possible reason would be if it is for a power grab by the ruling party in an effort to dilute or take away the legal vote of Greater Lansing west siders. It is not fair and it's wrong. And gerrymandering must stop now. And fair Districting is what we demand now. Thank you so much for your time.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Eileen for taking the time to address the Commission. And before you begin, just as a reminder to speak as clear as you can into the mic and really enunciate because we have interpreters and translators to make sure everyone is on an equal listening platform. Thank you.

>> Point of clarification, Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Yes.

>> Would the last speaker like to give us the map for the public record?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: He was asking if the map that you referenced, Commissioner Eid, was asking if the map that you show, would you like to give it to us? You don't have to. People at hearings bring us maps and we are allowed to take them. So if you would like to do that you can. Thank you, Commissioner Eid.

Seven we are all ears.

>> Thank you, Commissioners. My name is Joseph. And I'm a lifetime resident of both Clinton and Ingham Counties. I currently reside in Lansing, on the northeast side of Lansing.

Our community has grown over the years really to encompass, you know, three different counties. We are known as the Tri-County Region.

The City of Lansing is pretty unique in the fact it does cover three of these counties. I would ask the Commission to keep the urban and suburban parts of these areas together. And the rural areas on the outliers of those counties out of those districts.

I'll give you an example of how close we are in commuting. I live on the north end side of Lansing. You cross Lake Lansing road, you are in Clinton County. My daughter, I'm a single father, she goes to school in Dewitt, not that there is anything wrong with Lansing Public Schools but that is where she is going to school since he was in Kindergarten. So we developed a community of interest not only in the core of Lansing but also in what somebody said the bedroom communities around Lansing as well.

So we want to make sure that we keep those together. Here in this state the maps just don't make sense. And we all know that. Right? So we want to make sure that we are drawing fair, competitive maps so that our representatives in Lansing will be actually represented by, you know, people that live in those communities, not, you know, hours away.

So I appreciate the task at hand. Commissioners, I don't envy your job. But please, please consider keeping our urban, suburban areas together and our rural areas separate. Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for taking the time to address the Commission. Eight.

>> Hello. My name is Shaun Kemp. I also come from UAW Local 602. I reside in Holt. I'm originally from Portland. And I work in Delta Township, so I'm definitely from this area.

We have people that come from all over the state and more specifically what most of us would consider the Greater Lansing area to work in one of the state's biggest employers, General Motors. We use the same roads to get to the same place. And we all shop at the same local businesses. We are a community and should be represented as such. Dewitt, Bath, Okemos, Grand Ledge, these are all considered by most to be suburbs of Lansing and should be treated as well.

At the Lansing Delta Township plant, we are a melting pot of society and as such our districts should show that diversity. Above all else, I ask that the districts be shaped fairly and justly. And as a community and as a state, I think we are beyond tired of seeing these heavily gerrymandered zig and zag and fair, and just is what we ask for, thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Shaun, we thank you for addressing the Commission. Nine.

>> Thank you. I'm thankful for the Redistricting Commission. My name is David. I'm a natural born citizen of the United States, a resident of Michigan for some 70 years. And Clinton County basically since 1966. And currently I'm a U.S. and Michigan and property tax paying member of Watertown, Charter Township.

I chose to live in Clinton county because my community of interest has always been God, family and country. Concerning God, we agree with the Declaration of

Independence that the laws of nature and nature's God entitle us to declare this self-evident truths that we are endowed by our creator with certain inalienable rights, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

This community of interest in Clinton County includes many families and churches that hold these same God creator, nature rights, truths that have supported our great Commission ministry to France, South Africa and now Bible translation projects coordinator with Bibles international.

Our family community of interest includes parents, siblings, spouse and children of all whom -- all of whom have lived and thrived in Clinton county. In the past and attest to Clinton County being the best run county in Michigan maybe even the United States. I also have a community of interest in our country we are thankful for the founders and the way they enumerated the separation of powers. And also that the states are to have everything that's not specifically delegated to the U.S. Government.

So we are thankful to live in Clinton County. And I appeal to you to choose District boundaries to leave Clinton County as intact as possible.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for taking the time to address the Commission. Numbers 10, 11, 12 and 13 can approach the mic. Again, odd numbers are going to be on my left with even numbers on my right. So 11 and 13 here. 10 and 12 here. And, 10, when you are ready and at the mic, you can begin to address the Commission, if we have a number ten. Eleven, you can address the Commission.

>> My name is James Gallant with the Marquette Suicide Coalition and my community of interest is the entire State of Michigan. And I'm specifically interested in the Bylaws and processes that these maps will be drawn on and like you said hash tag fair maps, right?

Now, I'd like to say and point out to you that the business that you just concluded your business meeting, the business you did at that meeting, you absolutely, just as I've been pointing out, did not follow the rules. The Chair repeatedly assigned the floor without pending a motion second pending.

Hearing no objections, she said she could say something, all of the sudden you broke out in debate. And one member talked about how they facilitated the dialog. This is deliberation under the Constitution. This is not facilitated dialog. I would expect everybody in the community that you could go to the Michigan Public Health Institute and they have a training for health departments called facilitated dialog. And that is exactly what you're doing here. And it's not appropriate in this context.

And, based on my opinion, and based on the facts, I just spoke to Mr. Brady, the chief civil counsel for the Department of Secretary of State, and I now know, and I understand better how these systemic defects came into existence. And it's my personal opinion that Mr. Brady is just as confused, if not more, than you Commissioners on all of these rules and guidelines.

I don't think he has any working knowledge of the actual rules. And he is the one that gave you the cheat sheet for non-profits instead of the rule book at the first meeting. Mr. Brady is the one that created this whole defect.

He instructed you that you had to follow Robert's Rules of Order. And now he is telling me you may be defectively don't have to do that.

Well, I think he is just confused. And I would ask you to please request that Attorney General opinion concerning these issues I brought up, and the systemic defects, in order to straighten us out. And get the Attorney General to give an opinion and all the counsel, the suicide prevention council did the same thing, and so did the Human Trafficking Commission that I attempted recently. And this systemically called institutionalized bullying is what I'm calling this. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: 12.

>> Is it okay if I take my mask off?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: As much as you are comfortable.

>> My glasses with it, too. First, I want to thank you for your service in doing this. It's a difficult task. And I commend you all for taking on the challenge. My name is Kim L. I have a Lansing mailing address. I live in Delta Township, which is in Eaton County. And my School District is Grand Ledge.

I've lived here since 1981, and I chose to live here due to its rural feel but yet suburban setting.

Most of my life is spent in Eaton County shopping, worshipping, enjoying parks and trails, and attending Grand Ledge school sports events and functions.

I've served in our Township Government and our school system. And the needs of EATON county community are much different than that, than those needs of a larger Metropolitan area like the City of Lansing.

It's for this reason that I would like to see Eaton County included in the rural District as the needs of a rural population are different than the needs of a city population. Thank you for your consideration.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 13.

>> My name is Maria Rodriguez. I'm a Mexican American descent and American Indian. We live all over the State of Michigan and congregate in counties like Wayne and Ingham, Clinton. There is -- we are all over the State of Michigan.

We do not see a lot of representation on the Commission itself. So I want to thank the people that are here today as Commissioners, and especially our Lansing person.

But I want to make sure that you all understand that our community is growing. And by growing and we are democrats. So when you start looking at us, when you start looking at the communities, I hope that you take that into consideration.

Many of us cannot speak English. But we are voters. And we will continue to grow and vote for our communities as well as yours. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for sharing regarding your community of interest. Numbers 14, 15, 16, 17. 14, 15, 16, 17. Odd numbers over here. Even numbers to my right. Sound like a teacher. And 14 when the mic is ready and you are ready to speak you can address the Commission.

>> Well, thank you very much.

I appreciate it. Ladies and gentlemen, Commissioners, thank you for being here for Michigan and Michigan city -- citizens. Please, when you are redistricting Michigan, I ask that you keep in mind the rural flavor of out state Michigan.

I grew up on a farm in rural Michigan near Olivet. And I know for a fact that farm life is not easy and that the interests of farmers and the families who live in the rural communities of Michigan are far different than the interests of the people who live in cities.

Michigan's 7th District is mostly rural. Please keep it that way.

Please keep the rural flavor out of state Michigan in mind while drawing state, Senate and House Districts. Rural Michigan needs state Senators and representatives who represent the interests of the people who live in rural Michigan.

Likewise, other areas of the state are urban and have interests that center on urban living that differ from the interests of rural Michigan. Please keep that fact in mind when drawing State, House and Senate districts.

This is not just about we here in this room. It is about the futures of our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Commissioners, I thank you for listening. And by the way, I forgot to give you my name. I'm Bruce Barland and live in Diamond Dale, Michigan. And, again, thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Appreciate it.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Bruce, thank you for taking the time to address the Commission. 15.

>> Good afternoon. Thank you for being here, listening to us today. My name is Maria Vancore. I'm a retiree from Local 652. I'm also a chapter president for Labor Counsel for Latin American Advancement. We say lack love for short of greater Lansing area.

And what I'm here to say is that I would like to tell you that as a person who has been active in the community, we would like to have all of our Latino families be involved. But how can they be involved when they don't know what is going on or they don't know the boundaries of what is going?

We share a lot of information like health, education, economy. But when we do that, we need to be sure that we are including everybody around this area. We might have important issues here in town, meanwhile my District goes to Livingston and Oakland County and we don't have nothing over there that reflects us here. So we are neighbors with Eaton County and Clinton County and there is a lot of people that would like to have that information.

So my first thing I'm asking you is to please eliminate the map that you have now, that was created bipartisan gerrymandering. We want you to start fresh, look at the areas that we worked in, look at the areas that people think is more important to their lives. And then that way we can have more people, more families, Latinos, Asians, African-Americans, everybody, of a nationalities to be involved and be part of this, a big family in this area of Tri-County. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much. 16.

>> Hi. Susan Anderson and I'm here to ask the Commission to recognize the already community of interest that Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties share. At least four services, and there are many, many more, but I'm just going to give you four examples. And I'm talking services. I'm not talking about whether somebody is from a farm community or from an urban community. They all use the same Tri-County Community Mental Health Board if their children, if their child has an emotional issue. If their parents are aging and need help, they all use the Tri-County Area Aging Agency.

There is a police squad Tri-County. There is a transportation Tri-County group. And many, many more that I won't go through here that I would like you to take into account, that our services are united. And if we were in the same Congressional District, it would probably attract more funding. There wouldn't be issues of who do you talk to? Who is going to take this on?

So I thank you for listening and thanks.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you. 16. I'm sorry, 17.

>> Thank you, Madam Chairman. My name is Kurt. I am the supervisor for Windsor Charter Township. Windsor Charter Township is a small community southwest of Lansing and bordering on Lansing's boundary.

Our common element or our common interest is the fact that we are a rural community. Population of our Township is 6994 people as of 2018. And I'm sure you will get a little updated information when you get the to 2020 numbers, but this is close enough for this discussion.

The City of Lansing's population is 117,159. Eaton County's population is just a little over 110,000. When you look at these numbers, you come to realize that the city is -- has a density of 3194 people per square mile where the Township's density is 199.

We have very, very different interests. We have different requirements for police protection, fire protection, all these other kind of matters. Our millage rate is 3.8 mils to run our Government and provide the services that our citizens need.

The City of Lansing is 19 mils. So there is a vast difference in our interest.

I just implore you to follow your mandate number six and don't cross over county and Township lines especially. We need to have representation of people that understand what we need.

And, by the way, you earlier were talking about school District representation and consideration. I only have seven school Districts that come into my Township. Thank you very much for your service.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you. 17, 18, 19 and 20, 18, 19, 20 and 21. 18, 19, 20 and 21. Odd numbers to my left and even numbers to my right. And, starting with number, 18, when you are ready you can address the Commission.

>> Thank you. My name is Rosemary Hoover. I'm a retired schoolteacher and I live in Owosso, Michigan, and that is in Shiawassee County. Thank you for serving on our committee here. And for the time that you're taking to listen to the people of our state.

Shiawassee County, Clinton County and most of Eaton County is our current State Senate District. And this is primarily a rural area with small towns, neighborhood parks, and it has a lot of farms. We share the same small town values, agricultural interests and infrastructure that makes us compatible.

We have small churches, not cathedrals. We have small businesses, not large businesses. Our children grow up playing together and knowing families in a close way. Our school districts only have a few hundred kids, not thousands. And we get to know each other pretty well throughout our whole lifetime.

I would like to personally see this current arrangement continued because this is our community of interest.

We do not have many of the amenities and options that larger urban centers do, but we have corn mazes and bonfires and campfires and small town festivals that bring us together for seasonal fun.

We know each other by name in our banks and our businesses, our school boards and about everywhere else we get together. It is truly our community and a close community of interest, which is why I chose to raise my family and retire in Shiawassee County.

I happen to know the city clerk on a first name basis. And I learned that these clerks have a very challenging job as it is. Changing District lines will be very, very hard on them, almost overwhelming, so I would respectfully like to ask you to seriously commit or seriously consider keeping our current District intact. And with an old adage, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. In my opinion our current community of interest meets our needs very nicely. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Rosemary. And taking time to address the Commission. 19.

>> Hello. My name is Keith Barber. I was born and raised in Hamlin Township in Eaton County, right? I joined the Army. I just retired after 30 years. I've lived in many states and many countries. And where did I come back to? I came back to Eaton County, Eaton Rapids, right, why? Because I'm a country boy and that is what Eaton County is. That's why rural districts need to be represented by rural representatives. Okay?

What I also would like to say is that I feel that you should attempt to put districts, the State House districts, inside the State Senate districts, inside the Congressional districts, that way we can have a team. So that way you don't have to go over to somebody else and try to get multiple people working on the same issue.

You got your house. If you've got two house seats in one Senate District, just saying, you could work together. Those three can work together to get something pushed through. To just serve that community, right?

Then the last thing I would like to say sitting in here and listening to your redistricting criteria, two things I didn't see, gerrymandering or to make it fair. So just like 18 said, if it ain't broke, you can't fix it because it's not in your criteria to fix. Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much, Keith. 20.

>> Hello, my name is Linda. I moved to Lansing from Detroit about 40 years ago. I reside in that part of Lansing, Michigan, what is in Eaton county. I'm a member of the NAACP and active in a number of organizations. The 7th District is my Congressional District. The District is one of the most weirdly shaped districts in Michigan. Counties and district seven are Eaton, Jackson, Branch, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Monroe and part of Washtenaw. These counties do not have a community of interest.

Eaton County, except for Jackson, does not touch on any of the other counties, no joint projects exist from Eaton and the other counties. Shopping between Eaton and the other counties is virtually nonexistent. It is clear that District 7 has been gerrymandered to favor the election of republicans.

The existence of this District reduces the value of my vote. I am thrown in with a group of people that are unaware of the problems and issues faced by my area. These include an airport, public transportation and housing for the homeless.

A community of interest for Eaton County exists with the counties of Ingham and Clinton. These counties touch each other and in close proximity. Lansing Community College is one thing they have in common. LCC draws students from all three counties. The Tri-County Office of Aging consists of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton Counties. This office and provides services to seniors living in Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton Counties.

Shopping is intertwined within the three counties. Costco is located in Ingham County. However, it is used by shoppers in Eaton and Clinton. Walmart, another large organization, has locations in Eaton and Ingham Counties. Organizations such as the NAACP draw their membership from the three counties. Sororities and fraternities also draw membership from the three counties.

Two major hospitals, Vale and Maclaren, have their primary sites in Ingham County. However, each has a satellite office in Eaton and Clinton Counties.

And I would also point out in terms of this, in the districts, this current District and this is the one that I would like to see in terms of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Linda. If you would like to provide us with that, you can.

>> How would I do that?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Just bring it up to us.

>> Okay.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: And, as a reminder, just as she is doing right now, you are able to do that, all of you, and those listening, those watching you can go to the public comment tool and share your comments in writing, including any specific area of the map in which you are speaking.

The public comment tool, if you need to write it down or if you have not already heard us say is at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. I'll repeat it again www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. 21.

>> Greetings, Commissioners. I'm Dale, president of the Lansing branch NAACP and a lifelong Michigan resident. I want to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to give input on this important charge of this body.

You should know that the NAACP advocated for the passage of proposal two and its intent to achieve representation of all communities, including communities of color. We want the process to be fair. Marrying the intent of the proposals that the districts are generated from actual demographic data. That the process conforms to the legislative map criteria. And the districts are drawn to prevent a disproportional advantage to any political party.

Further expectations include that completed maps account for the state's diverse population and communities of interest. Simply stated, communities of color, various ethnic backgrounds must have an equal ability to elect representation that reflects their interest.

Failure to design appropriate districts the effects of gerrymandering that includes less competitive races and disenfranchises communities of color, diminishes voices of others, all the voters. It also deprives groups of people and neighborhoods from their share of public funding, funding that supports valuable services with respect to education, healthcare, transportation, small businesses and prisoner integration.

Again, I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you and also give you a hearty push for a successful redistricting.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you for sharing with us, Dale. 22, 23, 24 and 25. And, 22, you can begin when you are ready.

>> Yes, good afternoon. And I'm working in the community of interest for the Greater Lansing Area, predominately Hispanic organizations, with lead of Michigan.

We are working and putting together our testimony and our maps and we will submit those via the formal portal that the Commission has established. One of the things we want -- I wanted to make sure we came, I worked hard to be able to put the Commission on the ballot. But as the outcome of this, the first thing I noticed in terms of our lack of

advocacy, so my question or my ask is that there is no representation on the Commission from our Hispanic community to the Latino community.

As well as the first thing it brought to my attention was when I looked at the chart and it had it in terms of racial and ethnic categories, we were not included in the racial categories. I brought it to the attention of staff, made some amendments and corrected it, which I'm very happy for. But we should have been included from the onset.

My question is, as the Commission moves forward, is to not leave our community behind or to basically leapfrog it or fissure it in ways the districts don't take us into account.

It's been mentioned in terms of St. Johns. My grandfather came to St. Johns area in the 1930s. So my dad -- so we have been here since the 1930s, St. Johns, East Lansing, Lansing. My kids, one is in Wisconsin and the other one is in Grand Rapids.

So I say that only because I want to emphasize that we are not new Americans. We have been here for a long, long time. We have been here for a long existence. When I hear people talk about rural, somehow it's mentioned just as only producers and farmers. We are there. That is one of the reasons why so many farmers succeeded and been successful is because our population is working.

Thank you, Commissioners, please make sure that we are there when you do your work. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Juan, and when it's time to draw fair and transparent maps. 23.

>> Good evening, Madam Chair. And I would like to thank the Commission for taking the time to really listen to our concerns. My name is Kimberly Singer. I reside with my husband in the rural part of Owosso, located in Shiawassee County.

As you're aware, Shiawassee County makes up the vast majority of the 85th District. Shiawassee County is primarily rural with agricultural, small businesses and businesses that are automotive related, making up the primary economic interests. To redistrict our county would divide it electorally, therefore, divide our population which would be detrimental culturally and economically.

I resided in Shiawassee County. As mentioned, I'm an RN and I own six assisted livings that are all located in rural Shiawassee County. My community of interest is Shiawassee County. Shiawassee County shares a common culture and historical background with common economic interests.

The county is historically joined with a few townships from an adjoining county up to the more cultural, historical and economic interests to makeup the Michigan House District.

Shiawassee County has a population of 68,000, which is close to the population requirement to be a Michigan House District by itself. To be fair, I urge the Commission to keep Shiawassee County primarily its own Michigan House District and to keep it whole for the purpose of creating a Michigan

Senate District and a U.S. Congressional District by combining it with other counties of similar culture historical and economic interest.

I thank each and every one of you. You have a huge task in front of you. I admire you and greatly applaud your efforts. Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Kimberly, we appreciate you informing us about Shiawassee. 24.

>> Good evening. My name is Lorenzo Lopez. I was born and raised in Lansing, Michigan. I'm also here to speak on the interests on behalf of the Latino community of our state.

We would like to make sure that the urban areas of our state like Lansing, Grand Rapids, Detroit, which is Wayne County, Jackson, Flint, that we, our power base, our voting base is not cut up in fractions. Because we need to be able to elect those representatives who represent the interest of our community.

By the way, Juan, who just left, the Latino community of Michigan has been in Michigan for over one hundred years. We are not newcomers to the state. But we want to participate in the political process of our state. So I'm asking you, please, when the districts are rewritten, make sure that our representation in all of our major urban areas reflect that so that we can elect officials who represent our interest. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Lorenzo, thank you for sharing your passion. 25.

>> Hello. My name is Paul. I live in Lansing and I'm a father of three kids and a union member. I'm with the Labors International Union of North America, Local 355, which is based in Battle Creek.

I own a home in Eaton County and my children attend Grand Ledge School District. And our area is very unique as many other people have mentioned. The intersection of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties, makes some fun days for me.

Just last Saturday I woke up and got cinnamon rolls with the kids from Flower Child Bakery in Grand Ledge, so that is Eaton County. Then took them to swim class in Okemos, which would be at Cold Fish Swim School, which is Ingham County. They did a great job at swim class so we got some ice cream on the home from Park Lake Creamery, which is in Clinton County. So that is three places all just in our little morning routine. But all in different Congressional districts, which is really strange to me.

So as other people have said, my neighbors, Ingham, Clinton and Ingham counties should be one community. And I would like to see maps redrawn that take that into account.

Also, as I mentioned, my union hall is in Battle Creek. I was raised on Lake Michigan and South Haven originally. I still have family there. And I graduated from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. So pretty much all my life I've been a west sider. And it's interesting now living on the west side of Lansing my Congressional District

goes down and around to the east side. So I don't have a lot in common with Jackson, but Battle Creek I do, so I would like to see that twist the other way if we could.

So thank you very, very much for doing the work. The long nights of listening to people like me and our concerns. And I really enjoyed listening to my neighbors, so I want to say thank you to everyone who has spoken tonight and that is the end of my time. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: We appreciate you addressing the Commission. Numbers 26, 27, 28 and 29.

26, 27, 28 and 29. 26, if you are ready, you can begin addressing the Commission.

>> Thank you. Good evening. My name is Jeremy Garza. I was born and raised here in this great city of Lansing, Michigan, and still reside here today.

I'm before you this evening to participate in the public comment process for the redistricting efforts here in Michigan and ultimately have my voice heard by you, the Commission. So thank you for taking the time to hear my voice and the others before you today as well.

I live in South Lansing, east of Waverly Road. And it just doesn't make sense to me why I'm in a complete different house Senate District than somebody who lives in the City of Lansing on the other side of Waverly. The county line is not more important than the community that spans the areas.

I'm a 22 year member of the Plumbers and Pipefitter's Union Local 333 which the jurisdictions spans the Lansing, Jackson and Battle Creek Areas. Our members to the north, the Dewitt area, for instance, and let's be honest, like what does Dewitt have in common with Ithaca? Maybe ten years ago they were both more rural communities.

But Dewitt is becoming a veteran community of Lansing and so is our neighbors to the west, Grand Ledge. Grand Ledge has more in common with Dewitt than communities like Bellevue Township or Mulliken, for instance.

I live in a safe seat. I, Jeremy Garza, are not asking you, the commission, to draw me into a more competitive seat. I'm asking you to draw me into a state where control of the legislature is competitive and with the number of seats that a party gets is related to the number of votes they receive.

In the last ten State House elections, republicans have won the State House eight times by winning the popular vote only three times. If 50% of the time the system does the opposite of what voters are telling it to do, then that is a problem. And I consider that a broken system.

I'm asking the Commission today to throw out the old gerrymanders and draw fair maps from scratch. Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Jeremy, for taking time to address the Commission. 27.

>> Good evening. My name is Rosemary Duluth and live in South Dewitt Township which is in Clinton County. Clinton County is just north of Ingham. I grew up in a dairy

farm in South Dewitt Township. When we married, we moved out of the area. My parents and siblings continued to live in the Township. This community reflected my values then and it does today.

In our retirement years, my husband and I have moved back. We want Clinton County to remain whole. We are a rural, agrarian community. We know the issues of our farmers and their concerns.

Clinton County works well together and shares in responsibility. We are stable. Not transient. Our spending is frugal and our tax rate is low. And that is reflected in our budget.

We renew millage's for our fire and police as well as the blue bus for Clinton County. Because the monies are spent wisely and we believe in supporting the efforts of our elected officials.

Our District needs to remain square and compact. Our population should remain the same. How will a representative be able to adequately represent us if he has urban as well as a rural area to serve? Will that representative serve one at the cost of the other?

And thank you, Commissioners, for your work and the time that you have devoted.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Rosemary, for taking the time to address the Commission. 28.

>> Good evening. My name is Janis Hart. And my community of interest is Bath Township, Clinton County, where I've resided for over 16 years.

I grew up in Chicago and I moved to East Lansing to go to school, to work and to raise a family there for over 30 years. Our extended family resides in and has steep historic ties to Clinton County. I personally know and understand the urban versus the rural needs for community representation to address these very different community priorities.

Bath is unique due to a tragic school bombing that killed approximately 40 children and shook the community to its core. Bath is so closely tied to that tragic bombing that the Memorial Museum resides in its middle school so those children will never be forgotten.

Very few others than those from bath know about and understand the significance of this to our rural community. We live on a farmland directly across from that murderous property.

Bath is also unique due to the border with the East Lansing MSU community. When East Lansing annexed the area north on Avenue and Chandler Road, high density student housing filled the space that a small airport had occupied. And that area is known as part of Bath Township but owned by East Lansing was arranged.

This dramatically and quickly changed the Township due to a high population of transient national election voters that are not concerned and involved with rural small town living and its issues.

I'm asking that the Fourth Congressional District plan encompass all of Clinton County and similar communities to preserve the historic ties and the like-minded values and needs versus those of Metropolitan Areas.

These are sound, legitimate reasons to have people in rural and small town communities such as Bath Township, Clinton County be kept together.

Thank you for your time and dedication to an honest, well thought out process.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much. 29.

>> Hi. My name is Bruce Hart and I live in Bath Township in the southern independent of Clinton County, about 15 miles northeast of Lansing. I am a retired university professor and a part-time farmer. The community I am going to talk about is Clinton County. My family has been in Clinton County for over 150 years and I have people buried all throughout it, including two cemeteries in Bath Township. My dad's brother who was killed in the Bath school bombing is in one of those.

Most of my family had been farmers or part-time farmers while working in one of the automotive factories. Clinton County is special. And while political party affiliation is important, it is less so than one's personal integrity and principles.

Elected officials in Clinton County have values similar to mine and are fiscally responsible, an important attribute for all residents.

I am an outdoors person and enjoy all types of outdoor activities in the county. From Bath in the south to Ollie in the middle and Duplain in the north. Everyone that I spend time within the outdoors resides in Clinton County.

I and my family do not share the interest and/or environments typically found in East Lansing or Lansing and do not want to be included with them in a redistricting plan as it would make our votes of little importance.

My community of interest is Clinton County. And I ask you not to slice us in Bath off from the rest of the county. Please keep the county together.

Thank you for your time, and I wish you the best of luck.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you. We appreciate that. 30, 31, 32, 33.

>> Thank you, Madam Chairman, members of the Commission. I want to thank you for your service to our state. And for your commitment to throwing out the old gerrymanders and drawing new maps from scratch.

My name is Joshua. I was born just a couple blocks from here at Sparrow Hospital. And I now live in Lansing's Walnut neighborhood. I walked here today.

Through an absent of geography, Lansing sits in the far northwest corner of Ingham County. Because of these and for at least in the last 70 years, the residents of this region have had their votes unfairly diluted.

As Clinton County and Eaton County residents have been carved into out state districts, despite living just three miles north or two miles west of where we currently stand in Downtown Lansing.

Despite living and working in one of the most dense and diverse regions of the state, many of my neighbors are represented in Congress by rural residents like John Moolenaar and Tim Wahlberg. So my community of interest is the Lansing Metro Region irrespective of these arbitrary county boundaries.

Residents of Lansing's entering suburbs like Dewitt, Grand Ledge and Bath have far more in common with each other and with folks here in Lansing than with folks who live in Vermontville, Olivet, St. Johns and Laingsburg.

And in addition to living in very similar communities, we all work, grocery shop, recreate and worship in the same places. Please keep Lansing and our entering suburbs together instead of dividing us along arbitrary county boundaries that dilute our votes.

Michigan's county lines regularly changed throughout the 19th century. There is no good, nonpartisan reasons to use them now to guide our legislative districts in the region when they don't actually reflect the way we organize ourselves. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much. 31.

>> Good evening and thank you for this hearing. My name is Tom Emory. I reside in Perry Township in Shiawassee County. Shiawassee County is midway between here and the City of Flint in Genesee County. My five children and my five stepchildren all grew up in Perry and went to Perry High School.

Shiawassee County has a population of, as we've heard tonight, somewhere between 68,000 and 71,000. You would probably like to get those final figures from the feds sooner than you probably will.

But Shiawassee County is a major component of the 85th House District. It is one of three counties that makes up the 24th Senatorial district on the state level and as in the media and the fourth District for Congress.

It has been historically met the criteria for being a well-redistricted county. The county has shown competitiveness in the races, each major party has won -- over the last few years has won some elections. And so it's a well districted.

As to a community of interest being considered here tonight, the main thing I would say is don't change things for Shiawassee County. It is considered as a whole in all of the two state districts and the Congressional districts. Don't change that.

And it shares a common culture with -- throughout the county, but not with the surrounding urban areas of Lansing, Flint and Saginaw. And maintain the lines within the county, the District lines for the District, for the City Clerk, the Township clerks and so on, that would be an advantage. Thank you and good night.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Tom, thank you for sharing your comments with the Commission. 32.

>> My name is Charles Ballard. I'm a faculty member in the Department of Economics at Michigan State University. I live in Ingham County and Meridian Township about six miles east of here.

I applaud the work that you are doing on behalf of the people of Michigan. There are so many conflicting interests. And the seven criteria don't always point in the same direction.

And I want to point out especially that the criteria, the way you apply the criteria will be different for Congressional districts which are bigger than State Senate districts, which, in turn, are bigger than state representative districts.

My -- I want you to produce a set of maps that meet the sniff test, that don't smell bad, that don't look right. And that means I don't want to see long skinny districts like the current 8th Congressional Districts or districts with curlicues and twists and turns like so many of the ones that we see.

In terms of our community, each of us are a member of a lot of communities. But the way I think of it, I'm a Mid-Michigan guy. And so I want to echo several of the speakers that in terms of the Congressional District I want the Tri-County Area, Ingham, Eaton and Clinton, to be a part of the same Congressional District.

Now, the population of those three counties is such that they don't quite makeup the entire Congressional District. You would have to have a little bit more. Many of the folks from Clinton County have made clear that they don't want to be in the same District as me. Well, they wouldn't have to in terms of the State Senate or the State House. But for the Congress, I believe that the Tri-County Area where there is so much cooperation between those three counties, I would like those to be all part of the same Congressional District. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Mr. Ballard. 33.

>> Hi. My name is David Mulliken and I live in St. Johns, Michigan, part of Clinton County. And I am a traveling substitute schoolteacher for the entirety of Clinton County. But I have to pick and choose the schools just for the sake of distance.

So I am assigned to the St. Johns School District right now. And my field of interest is a number of things in Clinton County. And I want to just reiterate again that we are a strong county. We are a debt-free county. We are run very efficiently.

And the thing that I enjoy as a traveling schoolteacher is seeing each school that I work at on the same page. And that can only happen through the Clinton County RESA Program that exists in Clinton County.

The other thing that I see happening is strong leadership at the county level along with people caring for each other. We are a very proactive county. We are very proactive in St. Johns. And we have taken steps to take care of people who are homeless, who are struggling financially, who have basic needs that are not being met.

My wife works for an organization called the Beacon of Hope, which is a church-sponsored outreach. But we care for 50 families right now. And they are meeting needs at an incredible rate. And we are open for business simply because there is the need. And we are able to even grow even larger.

So the public school system is doing great in Clinton County from my point of view. And the way we care for each other in our community, the strong leadership that exists there, I'm just asking it not be broken up. We are doing really well. Not only are we strong as a community but we are moving internationally through business. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Madam Chair, I think we had the same idea, I will move that we recess.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Just trust me a little bit. Go ahead, Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I move we recess until 8:05 p.m. for a ten-minute recess.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: There is a motion made by Commissioner Eid and second by Commissioner Witjes. Is there any discussion on that motion?

Hearing none, all those in favor of a recess until 8:05 please signify with a raised hand and aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All those opposed raise hand and nay. The ayes have it. Motion carried, I'll see you all at 8:05.

Self-care break.

[Recess]

>> CHAIR KELLOM: We are trying to honor your time as best as possible. I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission back to order at 8:07 p.m. Will the secretary please call the roll?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please announce during roll call you are attending remotely and unless your absence is due to military duty, announce your physical location by stating the County, City, Township or Village and the state from which you are attending the meeting remotely.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Doug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present; attending remotely from Reed City, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janis Vallette.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present; attending remotely from Charlotte, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: All Commissioners are present.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Ms. Reinhardt.

Without objection, we will now resume the public comment portion of our meeting.

Hearing no objection, we will now resume public comment. 34, 35, 36, 37. As a reminder, the odd numbers are going to be to my left and even numbers will be to the right. 34, when you are ready, you can begin addressing the Commission.

>> Thank you. I feel like on the football field when you take a break and you leave the punter sitting there, waiting to try to kick the ball and now they have taken a break and now I have to think about it.

But, anyway, my name is Cheryl Black. I live in Eaton Rapids, in Eaton County. And I've been there for 40 years. I've seen the county change a lot. I also live right on or at least right off the road, I guess you would say, the notorious Waverly Road, that is my address. So if I step this way, I'm in the 8th Congressional District in Ingham County. And if I step this way, I'm in the 7th in Eaton County.

And as I have seen the county change, it's still rural. It still has all those wonderful things about rural communities. But more and more I've seen the county be integrated into all the services that the Greater Lansing Area has put together for the Tri-County Area.

So my little rural hospital, Eaton Rapids, brings physicians from the Lansing area so I can have doctors there.

So my big concern is the 7th District. It's a little bit up here. And I'm hooked by just a straw to Jackson County and then all along the border. I have nothing of interest there.

And as I live on Waverly Road, I see car after car after car going to the Greater Lansing Area, to the manufacturing, to Delta Township, to state workers, to lobbyists, to Michigan State.

All these people worked in those areas. We use the Greater Lansing Area for everything. And yet my representative of the 7th District truly only represents the southern southern border states in Michigan.

So all I ask is that when you look at the 7th District, if we are going to use the Greater Lansing services, if that -- all those agencies that have worked so hard to provide services for these three counties, why can't my Congressional representative also be a part of all of those services and know what is going on instead of sitting down at the border and not have a clue or an interest in what is happening in Eaton County or the 7th District.

So thank you very much. I appreciate it. And people are going to be mad at you no matter what you do, so I hope you have thick skin.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 35.

>> Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Rick Ross. I live in Owosso, in Shiawassee County. Shiawassee County historically has been kept whole for redistricting purposes for the Michigan House and Senate Districts. And the U.S. Congressional District, meeting the redistricting criteria of compactness, contiguity and the polls meet proper score requirements. It also should rate a high reot score keeping to the area of the smallest possible circle redistricting requirement.

Shiawassee County also meets the redistricting criteria of competitiveness, incumbency, packing and cracking, and partisan fairness. As historically the county votes in a way that can result in candidates from either party winning.

In the spirit of the communities of interest redistricting criteria, Shiawassee County shares a common culture and historical background with common economic interests. Shiawassee County is primarily a rural community with agricultural, small business, and businesses that are automotive-related, making up the primary economic interest.

Shiawassee County has a population of approximately 68-70,000, which is close to the 77, 92, 91,000 population requirement to be a Michigan House District by itself.

The county is historically joined with adjoining county of similarly cultural, historical, and economic interests to makeup a Michigan House District. To redistrict Shiawassee County in a way that would divide it up electorally, would artificially divide a population that would be detrimental.

I urge you to keep Shiawassee County as primarily its own House District and keep it whole for purposes of keeping a Michigan Senate District and the U.S. Congressional District by combining it with other counties of similar cultural, historical and economic interests. Thank you, Commissioners.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you for taking time to address the Commission. 36.

>> My name is Jerry Hillyard. I'm from Mount Pleasant and Isabella County. And I'm here tonight to speak to my particular interest, which is the State of Michigan.

In interest of full disclosure, I ran for the U.S. of Congress in the 4th District the last two cycles. But I'm not really here to lobby for them, per se. I'm here to talk about the State of Michigan.

I'm a baby boomer.

When we hit -- when we graduated college, we hit an economy that had jobs. You know, you didn't have to have a Ph.D. to get a good job.

And Michigan has gone off the rails, in my opinion, in a lot of ways since, you know, for today's generation when they come out of college.

I also teach at two Michigan community colleges. I teach economics and business classes. Michigan is hurting as shows by the fact that we are losing another District again for, you know, the fourth decade in a row, I believe. We've lost districts. We need to start getting back to some of the things we used to have.

In the 1970s and '80s, Michigan was known for a lot of good things. We were in the top ten throughout the '70s, '80s and into the '90s in wages in the entire nation. Now we are 30th. That's not the right direction. We need consumers to be able to spend money.

So but my main thing that I think we need to do to make this right is have competitive districts. If you don't have any competition, like the 4th District, then you don't really have to work at it. And I think that has been proven by the 4th District over and over again.

I recommend that we do as much as possible, no District more than 45, 55. At least that will make the Congress people have to work in order to keep their job. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much. As a reminder, if you hear the timer and you finish your comment but you feel that there is something else that you would like to say, or even if you haven't spoken but there is something that you want to share, please do utilize our public comment tool. And share your comments in writing, including any specific area of the map in which you are speaking or might represent your community. The public comment tool is at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.

38, 39, 40, 41. 38, when you approach the mic, please start addressing the Commission.

>> I'm 37.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: I'm sorry, 37, you are right.

>> All right. Thank you. I'm Dan Wallahan. I'm from Genowa Township, near Brighton, Livingston County which is about 45 minutes southeast of here.

I live in a rural area. Population here is spread out in Livingston County, which is my community of interest. There is no municipality or Township over 25,000. A lot of us hunt. We fish. There are some farmers in our county. And most of us that work outside of county come back home because we like rural atmosphere.

If we go to other counties, it's for work or it's for going to a sports event before coming home. We request that all the Commission please keep our county whole. That is our

first state rep. We have two representatives in our county. Two districts exactly. For State Senate we were kept whole and for Congressional we were kept whole. We would like to keep it that way.

For State Senate and Congressional districts, we have a little bit less population than full district there. We would like to be attached to other rural-based communities. We do not wish to be connected to places like Ann Arbor. Ann Arbor and Washtenaw Counties and similar folks spoke at a Jackson meeting and they don't wish to be connected with Livingston County. We have different values and I think both the communities there should be respected.

I know one person here in Lansing said they didn't want to be represented by Brighton. I agree with them. I think every community needs its own values, and that's why I'd like to see all the values kept together. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 38, 39, 40 and 41. 38, 39, 40 and 41. You're 41, okay.

So we don't have -- okay, and for the purpose of the public record, we do not have 38, 39 or 40 present at the moment, so we will begin with 41.

>> Thank you, members of the Commission. My name is Lee Ann Kurman and I'm an RN. I've practiced for 34 years in acute care and critical care settings at Sparrow Hospital. I'm retired but take care of my fragile mother in my home and baby sit my granddaughter who has autism in my home, too.

I literally live in corn field in Oneida Charter Township. The most basic ask, one of the things I wanted to let you know that is the most basic aspect of healthcare is food and nutrition. You are what you eat. We live in a rural setting. And I understand the plight of farming community in my area.

The interests of the farming community is vital for food and food production that we all need. Developers, big Government interests, commercial interests, educational and even medical interests must not interfere with those vital interests that support us all.

Our 7th Congressional District contains one medium-sized city, several small cities, several colleges and several hospitals. So we have small towns scattered throughout. And one Delta Township is like a small town of its own.

Okay, you know, I live in Oneida Charter Township and our farmland is selling off at an alarming rate. And nobody is listening to us. Not anybody in Washington is listening. Not anybody in Lansing is listening. And not even our County Commission.

Now people want to redraw the districts to make it more fair. Now, I have grandchildren from four different races, all living in Eaton County. But race is not what matters when food and nutrition is going to be depleted by not having enough, the farmers are not going to be able to grow.

There are differences between what is right and wrong. And our District has different ideas of what they are than like the 8th Congressional District. Okay.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Lee Ann, your allotted two minutes is up. But I encourage you to finish your statement and your public comment. And we do also have what you just provided with us in writing.

>> Okay. Growing locally seems to be an overriding theme these days. When I grew up it was, too. One very good idea that seems to be making a comeback, please consider rural areas as culture to be considered when drawing your maps. And if there is a big population of the cities, it's because somebody is doing something wrong.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you.

>> Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: 42, 43, 44 and 45. 42, when you reach the mic, you can feel free to begin your public comment.

>> Thank you, Madam Chair my. Name is Brendan and I am from the Macomb County and in the Northern Macomb County portion. I'm encompassed by the 25th Senate District and 33rd House District, as well as having connections to Ingham through being a Michigan State student. I recognize both of those areas as genuine communities of interest.

Looking at the Northern Macomb County portion, I value that as a community of interest based on school districts. Looking at the school Districts in the area, we could always have seen, even when I was back this school, being able to connect Armada, Richmond, Romeo, Washington Township, all of those areas are encompassed by three school districts.

When people look at communities of interest, especially residing in those areas, they always drawback to school districts and that is how they identify with their community. This would be an ideal House District for the State of Michigan to be able to encompass all of these ideals that are shared among those school districts and communities of interest where people are tying back into those areas.

Looking to, as I am a Michigan State student, as well residing in currently Ingham County, it can be tied back to looking at how this is also an important community of interest through having the surrounding Greater Lansing Area.

Michigan State students identify the Greater Lansing Area as encompassed in the surrounding freeways. Nobody who attends the Michigan State would go outside of that area to venture to consider what they would consider a community of interest.

This would be based on including Delta Township in a current Senate District including Ingham County as a whole for that Senate District along with annexing or keeping in Delta Township and Waverly Road within those Senate, that Senate District as well. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you for addressing the Commission.
43.

>> Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Yes.

>> Joe Ellen, Livingston County. I'm a former teacher. Educational communities of interest are geographically clustered and interconnected in Livingston County. Educational communities of interest include the following: Public schools, private, charter schools, home schoolers, and adult programs. Collectively these communities of interest coalesce around shared values, unique needs and are interconnected and dependent on local, county resources, facilities, businesses, funding and services.

A few examples. Shared transportation. Public and private schools share by Michigan law local school bussing. Other taxpayer funded community bussing services also provide access to educational resources.

Shared resources. Teaching staff are often shared between public, private and home school groups. Teachers may offer music, foreign language, advanced placement, dual enrollment classes, psychological and medical services library, technology centers, business and industry collaborations are all -- serve all of those communities of interest.

Extracurricular programs rely on joint community resources. Things like academic and athletic clubs, science Olympiad, robotics, adult ed, et cetera, they share the local fields, stadiums, and pools.

All share local oversight, funding, support and public safety services. Funding comes from locally and is provided by two local supports.

In summary, focusing direct representation compactly within Livingston County will keep the educational community intact as a central hub to meet student needs. I thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much for taking the time to share with the Commission. 44, by the look on your face you must be 45. So, yes, 44. 45, please address the Commission.

>> Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to this committee. My name is Karen Andrews. My address is in Dewitt. My husband and I have lived in Clinton County all of our lives. We each grew up in different but neighboring rural townships within Clinton County. My husband on a crop farm and I on a dairy farm.

In addition, we chose to raise our seven children in yet another rural Township of Clinton County from where we have home schooled our seven children for almost 30 years. And every Township where we are, have lived within Clinton County, we have discovered common, positive qualities. In our 64 years of experiences within Clinton County, we have encountered many, many people with whom we share the same values and belief systems.

We have appreciated the opportunities that have come from living near other home schooled families within Clinton County with whom we have played sports, studied music and academics. The land offers lakes, rivers, creeks, fields, woods, parks, trails, spacious areas to explore, small towns, and family-friendly communities where people can pass on their faith and their freedoms to their children and grandchildren.

It is a place where we can freely grow, do business, build communities and thrive as well as minister to one another as we develop our God given gifts and abilities. As you consider the borderlines of our districts, I would ask that you keep the districts square, compact and the population equal.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and these important matters and thank you for your service.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Carrie, we appreciate your public comment. 46, 47, 48 and 49. 46, 47, 48, 49.

>> Hello. My name is Mark Parker. I'm a Lansing resident, former city worker and organizer in the area.

I am so happy to see you folks in Lansing today. And thanks for sticking around and staying awake and listening to us.

The main thing I'd like you to take away from the speakers today is do not be shy. These districts are a bit of an embarrassment to Michigan. Like one of the speakers said, start fresh and don't be shy in redrawing these districts.

One thing that I'd like you to do, of course, as a Lansing resident is I'd love you to try to keep the Lansing Metro Area together as much as possible, that Tri-County Area that the professor was talking about. Just there is so much there. It's the third largest Metro area in the state. And we would really like to keep that together in your future Districting.

Thanks for coming out and thanks for all you are doing. We really appreciate you, so thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much. 47 please, 48.

>> Good evening, Commissioners. Thank you for taking your time to listen to us this evening. I know you have a tough job in front of you and many opinions to listen to and understand.

My name is Chris Stewart. I had my residency in Grand Ledge while my parents still own my childhood home in Bath. I've been part of the Lansing Regional community most of my life. My family has been a part of the Grand Ledge community for close to 110 years. We own a local small business there for that same amount of time in town too.

I've been fortunate enough to work on farms as a kid, in higher education straight out of college as an educator and a coach, to having my own small business while marketing for another in emergency water removal, which serves Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties.

I list these three areas of my community of interests, agricultural, education, and small because it allowed me to travel and talk to and to my best effort understand the similarities and differences in all the communities in the region.

There are significant differences, none of which is good or bad; but they are different in the communities outside of Lansing, although they may share a county. There are

also similarities to areas bordering the city limits. For instance, Delta Township, although in Eaton County is similar to the city of Lansing which is in Ingham County. While communities such as Bath and Dewitt both in Clinton County hold very similar values, ethics and education as Grand Ledge, which is in Eaton County.

When I travel to Lansing to speak to homeowners, there are needs that are different than the communities I listed prior. And how they choose to see the world and operate is much different than say places like, Charlotte, Olivet, Bellevue, Vermontville and Mulliken. Places like Delta Township in Eaton County, however, do hold closer values and far more similarities with their neighbors in Lansing.

And I provide this information because although they are different, some more rural than the other, each of those communities deserves the proper fit and ultimately the best representation and governance at all levels. Bath, Dewitt and Grand Ledge may choose to raise their children differently in Delta Township and Lansing, and, you know what? That is okay.

In my experience all those communities are filled with exceptional people, all of which have provided me joy in all three of the communities I have chosen to work. Thank you so much for your time.

I appreciate all the work and wish you the best.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Thank you for coming out and sharing with us. 49.

>> Good evening and thank you very much for serving, taking your time out, your valuable time to serve on this Commission. And thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

My name is Dedra Thompson and I'm a resident of Dewitt Township in Clinton County, like many people you have heard from already tonight. I actually grew up in Southeast Michigan near Detroit. And I always thought that I wanted to live in a big urban community like Chicago or Boston, D.C., something like that. But as I got a job, coming out of college, I ended up in the Lansing Area. And I came to know and love a more rural community.

My husband and I moved to Dewitt 24 years ago. And we chose Clinton County because of the rural, small community environment. We love being surrounded by the small farms. And this includes the mooing of the cows in the morning when I walk.

We enjoy being close to outdoor activities that are available at Sleepy Hollow State Park and going for bike rides on the low volume roads and seeing over the hills and seeing the farms as we ride by.

We are interested in a Government that is fiscally responsible. And Clinton County is known for being one of the most fiscally responsible counties in the state. And I think that's a matter of the community and the people that live in the community we take care of each other.

The ice storm we had a few years ago, we came together. We took care of each other. People were having problems in their homes. We were there. A call would come out or something would come out on Facebook, whatever, we were there for each other and we took care of each other. And it's the strength of our communities. And I want to just emphasize the importance of the Clinton County staying together. And Dewitt not being taken away from the rest of Clinton County.

It's important for our family to maintain representation that understands our smaller community, the farmers and the small business owners. Extending the lines south towards Lansing could affect this representation and that would not best serve the smaller communities of Clinton County. Thank you again.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Dedra. We appreciate you. 50, 51, 52, 53.

Well, that is where all our people were hiding. No, adjust the mic before you speak.

>> Hello. My name is Rosemary Felpausch. I've lived in Fowler, Clinton County for 70 years now. My parents and grandparents were born here. Both my grandparents have been farmers. My husband and I have been farming for 55 years. Our nine children have gone through the same school system that we did. My husband has served two terms on the school board. We always personally know those who serve on the school board.

It's very important for us that our school system has the same values that we do. We feel safe in our small town and county. We have a low crime rate. We enjoy our neighborhood children being able to freely play and be children. They can bike, roller blade or skateboard without their parents worrying.

We would like our voting District to include other small towns like ours. We do not want to be included with large cities such as East Lansing or Lansing. We don't want to have our District changed. We want to keep Clinton County intact, along our State House and State Senate lines. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much. 51.

>> Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is Eileen Felpausch. And I lived in rural Fowler and Clinton County for my whole life minus two years. I grew up on a family farm and that taught me the rewards of hard work. I learned at a young age you don't work, you don't eat.

At my small town Fowler High School I met and married the love of my life. When his father retired, we purchased the family dairy farm and we are still living there for our 46th year.

This is where we were blessed to raise our 11 children and teach them life skills that empowered them to be responsible citizens. When I was first married, I lived in Lansing for four months. And soon discovered I did not want to raise my family in this environment. My number one concern was our safety. Hearing gunshots and continual sirens never felt normal for me.

I did not feel safe walking alone whether day or night. I longed for my country roots of open fields, wildlife galore, country walks, bonfires without permits, and the beautiful night skies and the rarity of sirens.

Whenever I hear gunshots now, I know a neighbor is getting ready for the hunt. I appreciate the conservative mindset of my community. We respect the flag. We respect the police. We look out for each other. We respect those in authority and pray for them. Above all I personally desire to remain a village, a county, a District where my offspring can enjoy the wonderful blessings that I've come to love and cherish.

Please retain the District as it is, to preserve its conservative values. Thank you for serving and for your time.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, Eileen. 52.

>> Hello. My name is Marilyn Fox Suade. I'm a resident of Delta Township and I'm delighted to be here. I'm delighted that you're here.

I worked on the redistricting proposal, and it's just wonderful to see it in action. So thank you for being here and listening to us.

I want to say our cultural, geographic and economic area of interest in this area is the Tri-County Area, Ingham, Eaton Clinton County. They, unfortunately, Lansing is split into three counties; but that is the greater Lansing Area.

State Government, the University of Lansing Community College and GM, they drive the economic base here in Lansing. And culture based, too. So I would like to see the maps drawn to keep Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton County together. And then as you have to narrow down, if you would use like Dewitt to the north, Williamston to the south, Mason or -- I'm sorry, Williamston to the east, Mason to the south, and Grand Ledge to the west, you're encompassing that older or the bedroom community of Greater Lansing. And I think their interest is similar.

I did recognize a couple of the other real estate professionals that were beating the drum for the rural communities that have benefitted greatly from working the entire Tri-County area. So, yeah, I think that is our area of interest. And I thank you again.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Marilyn, we thank you. 53.

>> Good evening. My name is Bruce Suade. And I want to start by mentioning just what a wonderful job Marilyn just did. That was fantastic. I live in Delta Township with Marilyn.

I am very thankful for you all. And thank you for doing this. Thank you for being part of this process.

I would like to also echo the sentiment of keeping the Tri-County Area together. I'm a U.S. Congressional District that begins just west of Lansing and continues, well, yeah, south and then west until it wraps around to the southern border of the state.

I would like to be included in a District that encompassed my neighbors. I'd like to be in partnership with my neighbors. I'd like to encourage my neighbors to embrace the diversity of our community. And to share the idea that we have values in common.

I think a single community would force us to interact with one another and to recognize and realize that we have those shared interests. Thank you very much. Thank you, again. Good night.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Bruce, thank you for coming out this evening and sharing with the Commission. Numbers 54, 55, 56, 57. 54, 55, 56, 57.

>> Good evening. My name is Emma. And I want to first thank you for your service on this Commission. I'm a resident in the City of Lansing, community music teacher. I use public transportation and I was recently attended Michigan State University for a graduate program.

I believe that the best community of interest for our congressional representation is for Ingham County and Ann Arbor to get together. Ingham and Ann Arbor both possess top-notch research universities. And Ingham and Ann Arbor both need quality public transportation. Ingham and Ann Arbor are culturally similar with high population density. Many young people including millennials and Gen-Z populations and focused on higher education institutions.

Lansing and Ann Arbor both share environmental concerns. By uniting Lansing and Ann Arbor, we will have a strong representative in Congress who understands our very similar needs.

Thank you again for your service. And I hope you join Lansing, East Lansing, Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. And I'm submitting a map showing how easily and continuously these communities join together. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Emma, thank you for your information and your warm sentiments. We appreciate that. 55.

>> Hello. And thank you for being here tonight and allowing me to come and speak and taking time out of your busy lives to do what you're doing. This is all new to me. And as I'm learning about this redistricting, it occurs to me how important it is, so thank you for what you're doing.

My name is Lynn Alberson and I live in Howell Township in Livingston county. I come to you tonight because I wanted to talk to you about my communities of interest.

I'm a small business owner in our community. But I come to you because I wanted to talk to you about communities of interest with regard to the equestrian community. I'm not sure how many of you have horses in your backyard, but in Howell Township most of us do.

So I represent the equestrian community from a few different areas. So a lot of small farms in our area. We not only have a lot of recreational farms, small farms in our area. However, we also have horse shelters in Livingston County, one of the largest in Michigan, that is always at full capacity.

We also have a domestic abuse center that is the only one in Michigan that will accept horses for people that are in need. We have a very large community of equestrian

teams and 4H clubs that are all centered around the equestrian community. And that is very important to us, which is in a rural setting, that's important.

So I would like you to consider keeping our Livingston County intact and our communities and municipalities intact as best as you can. And I know you have a very big job ahead of you, but thank you for letting me come out.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much, Lynn. 56.

>> Good evening, Madam Chair, distinguished members of the Commission and staff. My name is John Greenslip. I've heard, excuse me, I have a new hip so I'm a little wobbly. I apologize for that.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Do you need to sit and lower the mic?

>> Well, I'll be okay I think in two minutes if you will bear with me.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay.

>> But thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Let's start.

>> I live in the famous Delta Township.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Wait, I want to start the time over for you.

>> Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: You can go.

>> Madam Chair, you are very generous. I live in the famous Delta Township. You have heard a lot about that. I have three Congressional districts within two minutes of my home, which makes absolutely no sense.

I'm a former applicant for this Commission along with many tens of thousands. I'm willing to serve in any capacity. I've lived here 48 years. The last since, retirement I was a department head in Eaton County.

We are not as rural as the image has been painted. The highways are cluttered every morning at 8:00 and at 5:00. The economic base is really our center.

My pitch to you tonight is to look eastward. The best service I get for my Congressional delegation comes out of Congressional Area Eight, which is two miles from my home. And I hope we can capture that economic collection or composition to serve us much better.

Members of Congress, basically, in my opinion, and my experience, serve the nation first; their state second; their community third and then spin off to be qualified to service us on individual constituency problems. We have not seen that in our Congressional District due to gerrymandering.

When I moved here, we lost Kalamazoo and Battle Creek. And we transitioned into a whole new system. I hope you will consider that as well as retaining the great pitch you had this evening for local autonomy. It's very important you mix and match Congressional with those other challenges. Good luck. Thank you for coming. And thank you for your courtesy.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: We appreciate you coming out and please heal well. 57. If there is no 57, I would like to call numbers 58, 59, 60 and 61.

>> Hello. My name is Dorothy Chu. I'm from Flint, Michigan. And I've always lived in Flint, Genesee County all my life.

I'm here. I have a little different perspective on my concern. I'm concerned about our state. I'm concerned about our state. I'm concerned about the whole country, but I'm particularly concerned about the state.

And, if I remember right, this Commission was created after the people went to the polls and voted for this to be created. And I think that is very important. They wouldn't have done that if they didn't think that it was needed. And so I'm looking forward to having you do something to make this state better in terms of voting. And that is a big issue with me.

Although I lived in Flint, and always have had my home there, I've worked in Saginaw for General Motors, Delfy. I worked down in Southfield, Livonia, Romulus, Dearborn in the medical field, in occupational medicine. I've worked as a teacher after being a secretary in the Flint School System and then as a social worker in the Flint School System. And I also worked in Grand Rapids.

And even though I had to stay overnight there in my job's position, my home was still in Flint. So Flint is where my heart is.

My concern is that the issue of gerrymandering. It's not -- a little different than what most people. I think this should be fair and competitive. And it should be not based when someone, person before mentioned that when minority -- a majority of the votes don't get represented there is something wrong. And I kind of wonder what the state looked like before gerrymandering started. And my concern is not with a religious or this. My concern is representative Government. And it can't be carved up like a salamander whenever that happened because that is a part of some political thing. And this whole thing should not be related to partnership or party politics. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you, 59. So 59. You were 59. We have 60. Okay.

>> I just wanted to say I was really happy to learn that this Commission was going to come about because it gave me some hope that things would change to be more fair and that Michigan would be better represented.

My name is Linda. And I'm a psychiatric clinical nurse specialist. I've worked several years in the VA. I was raised in Flint and spent part of my adult life there, my early adult life. And I lived a few years in East Lansing and then I lived in San Francisco Area for 30 years. But I moved back in 2010 because I missed Michigan. I love Michigan. And my family is here. So I've been in Burton since 2010.

So I am concerned about my area, but I'm concerned about the whole state. And the big concern is about what gerrymandering has done. Basically to give higher representation and power to a minority in order to rule and make decisions for a majority. That seems to be how it's been going.

And I just urge you to end this gerrymandering and make dividing districts more equitable and fair. And in a way that truly reflects the voters so that electoral votes do not overrule popular votes. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much for sharing with the Commission. 61.

>> Hello, hi.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Are you 61?

>> I'm 61. My name is Chris Hart. I am from Oneida Charter Township. I was elected this past November to serve as trustee and I've been doing my best to serve the best interests of my constituents.

And it needs to be pointed out that Township lines are firm and won't be affected by this Commission. And so whatever your judgment is in drawing the maps, doesn't affect my office. However, I am responsible for representing the interests of my people. Actually, that sounds kind of weird. My constituents.

And as far as the community goes, it's very much almost completely rural, just edging Grand Ledge. And we are abutting Delta Township. And it would be a disservice to the people in my Township to have split representation between two different representatives in the Michigan House of Representatives and the U.S. House of Representatives. And especially because we are very culturally dissimilar from, say, Lansing or Delta Township. And this is the claim to, well, keep my community whole.

And, frankly, I grew up on a farm. I still live on a farm. And it would be just strange to connect us with a more Lansing leaning political grouping. Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you so much for sharing with us this evening. 62.

>> Good evening, Commissioners and Madam Chair. Thank you so much for your service. My name is Linda Marport. And I have lived in Delta Township and Eaton County for 64 years. My communities are interest are Delta Township and farming.

Delta continues to be home to four generations of my family who operate a farm located just north of I-496 And Creyts Road, a farm that my great grandparents established in 1912. They moved from Graytown, Ohio, arriving by the train to the East Michigan Avenue Depot with their farm gear, Holstein cows and household goods, aided by neighboring farmers who brought horse teams and wagons. They drove their cattle to the 74-acre farm located 4.5 miles west of the State Capitol.

I share this wonderful story of complete strangers who came together to help a new family get settled because the same spirit of helping each other in times of need remains a core value in Eaton County. While much of the farmland in Delta has given way to urban sprawl, it may surprise you to know that my grandfather had a big hand in that transformation. He served the Township for 28 years. And was proud to help create a community where families wanted to live, work and worship. His vision was not narrowly limited to Delta Township, but more broadly focused on improving the infrastructure, economic well-being and quality of life for Eaton County.

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Delta Township is an integral part of the county comprising one-third of the population and contributing heavily to the county coffers, thanks to employees like Auto Owners and GM. Delta Township also contracts with the Eaton County Sheriff's Office for police protection.

The Township's eastern border runs along the City of Lansing while it's western border includes Grand Ledge farmland and the southern border countryside. So Delta has evolved in a carefully planned urban setting to focus on fiscal policy, conservative fiscal policy and creating a safe place to live, work and play, is more aligned with the other townships, villages and cities in Eaton County than its neighbor, the City of Lansing.

For these reasons it's my desire that Delta Township continue to share a House, Senate and Congressional representation with other municipalities in Eaton County. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much for coming out to share with us this evening. At this time we will move to our remote public comment.

As a note, those wanting to comment again will comment after all first folks who have signed up comment. So at this time we will move to remote public comment.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide live remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. I will call your name and our staff will -- I will call your name and our staff will unmute you.

If you are on a computer, you will be prompted by the Zoom app to unmute your microphone and speak. If you are on the mic -- if you are on the phone, a voice will say that the host would like you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute.

I will call on you by your name. Also, please note that if you experience technical or audio issues or we do not hear from you for at least three to five seconds, we will move on to the next person in line and then return to you after they are done speaking.

If your audio still does not work, you can e-mail redistricting@Michigan.gov and we will help you troubleshoot so you can participate during the next public comment period at a later hearing or meeting.

You will have two minutes to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when your two minutes has ended and you hear the timer.

We understand it might be more difficult to hear virtually, but please do your best to honor the sound of the timer. And, of course, I will remind you. Please go to the public comment tool and share your comments in writing including any specific area of the map in which you are speaking about. The public comment tool is at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.

First in line this evening to provide public comment virtually is Mark Zacarta. If I mispronounce your name, any part of it, please do correct me and allow a few minutes for the staff to unmute you.

>> Hi. If you can hear me.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Yes, Mark, we can hear you. You are unmuted and are invited to address the Commission.

>> Hi. Thanks. My name is Mark Zacarta. I'm a farmer in Owosso in Shiawassee County. Thank you for doing this important and difficult job. And I think that your intent is a good one, to make some fairness, some more fairness in our redistricting process, in redistricting and to promote unity in all our communities. And I think we should all be working to bring this country together and to heal the wounds that have been deepening, seems like, over the past several decades.

You will hear a lot of folks with the talking point to keep rural communities separate from urban and suburban. And don't change the maps, but I think the reason for that is that a lot of conservative politicians want to keep us separated, if they can drive wedges between us, between Americans in urban and rural areas like where I live, keeps them to wield their political power. They can do that even when their vote tallies are in the minority statewide.

I think districts should be drawn to be competitive. And I think that is what you guys are working on. Probably can tell my partisan leanings, but I don't seek advantages for democrats. I seek fairness. And I want to see competitive elections that result in politicians who are accountable to their constituency and not just D.C. party bosses. And then who in turn are indebted to the money donor class.

I heard a speaker earlier I thought made a really good point that, you know, the Congressional districts is a lot different than the State House, from the State Senate. You know, the State House, a lot of these rural districts should stay intact. And they probably will stay that way. There are just not that many people in each one.

Now, of course, the State Senate is quite a bit different. And I think especially the U.S. House Districts have been severely gerrymandered by the GOP. And it's been damaging to our democracy. And I think a lot of those should be addressed.

And my District is a good case in point. The Fourth District. I actually used to live in Saginaw in a low-income area in Saginaw City. And the partisan map makers in 2011, they cleaved off part of Saginaw Township. And people who live just blocks from me were pushed in the Fourth District to ensure a wealthy GOP district. And we hope that we see a lot more fair maps and more competitive races going forward. Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much, Mark.

Our next virtual public comment is Daniel Segalman. And, again, if I mispronounce any part of your name, please do correct me. If there are pronouns that you prefer to be identified by, please also let us know. Allow a few moments for the staff to unmute you.

>> Thank you. I'm afraid I'll have to turn my head a little to read from the big screen. I have vision appropriate to my age.

I thank you for taking on this important task, and I'll be quick. I understand that one of the charges to this Commission is to respect communities of interest. But I assert that does not mean that each District must be homogenous.

In fact, it would be impossible to design the map for every District to be homogenous, for every District to have equal population and to have compact boundaries. So that means we have to acknowledge that many districts are going to be mixed. And that's not bad.

Sharing a District with people who are different from ourselves does not threaten our ways of life. And your charge is to make all of this happen in a way that recognizes and respects the coherence of each community and more power to you. It's not easy. I understand that.

And this brings me to the issue of electorally safe districts. As said by previous speakers, electorally state districts are bad. They encourage extremism, they undermine democracy. But I'm going to assert that if there are not any safe districts, then because this state is roughly evenly split between democrats and republicans, while I'll ask you to endeavor to have no more safe districts for one party than another. And thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much, Daniel. We appreciate you sharing your public comment with us today.

Our third virtual public comment has dropped off and they are no longer present, so we will move on to Douglas Helserman. Again, if I mispronounce any of your name, please do correct me. And if there are any pronouns that for us to better identify you, please also let us know.

>> Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: We can hear you.

>> I'm Doug Helserman. Do I need to turn my camera on?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: You don't have to.

>> Okay, because I can't see my picture. Okay, start my video, okay. There we go. Okay, my name is Doug Helserman. I'm a County Commissioner here in Livingston County. And as the other people from Livingston County said, keep Livingston whole. We apparently have -- we live in redistricting heaven. We don't always -- you can guess from the District is now democrat, so we don't always get what we want.

Anyway, we will know if you do your job well, the public will judge you by two standards. First of all, does -- will your map look like any other map drawn by politicians, that it will look like it is gerrymandered? Federal law kind of demands that you do some gerrymandering.

The other thing is how many units of Government and precincts you divide making it difficult for people to vote. If you do that, it's going to be not viewed favorably.

Historical Supreme Court decisions saying all political divisions must be made by population. If we take this, this declares our constitutional system of two Senators per state to be unconstitutional because that is not by population.

And having two Senators has brought -- has been part of the reason we've had long-term peace and unity in our country. And the system that with both being by both

houses statewide being by population doesn't -- will not give our state that same protection.

As I see it, democrats on your Commission will want to divide the city population and divide the rural areas, making spokes from the city to the rural areas lessening the independent thought that comes from the rural areas. And republicans will work to keep rural areas together to consecrate independent thinking, and keeping cities together in large proportion to less than the total representation of dependent people.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Your allotted two minutes has ended. And we are not sure if you heard that your allotted two minutes has ended.

>> Thank you much.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Thank you so much and have a great evening.

At this time that concludes our virtual public comment. We will now return to in-person public comment for the final comment this evening. You can approach the mic and address the Commission.

>> Thank you. My name is James Gallant, Marquette Suicide Prevention Coalition. And my community of interest is the entire State of Michigan. And my concerns are the Bylaws and Rules of Procedure of the decision making processes of this Commission.

This is my understanding of the processes that have transpired and this is my personal opinion based on the facts. The constitutional amendment approved by the voters created this liberal assembly. And the chief civil counsel, Mr. Brady, stated in your orientation materials, in the transcript you must follow Robert's Rules of Order.

And I believe that the Secretary of State, Benson, directed her staff, including Mr. Brady, to assemble an ad hoc committee, including University of Michigan, Michigan State University and the Princeton Gerrymandering Project to provide recommendations for initial structure for the Commission. And Mr. Brady chose not to use the instruction manual. This is the instruction manual, how to create and deliver of assembly in America. The Constitution said do it and he chose not to do this. It's step by step, start on page one.

Okay, now, he didn't use that and he -- his recommendations that were brought and were approved verbatim, it was approved verbatim, their recommendations did not provide a copy of the rule book. It provided you with a nonprofit Robert's Rules of Order cheat sheet to go by. And he even said the 700 page book. He quoted that.

Now, I believe that that ad hoc committee was subject to the Open Meetings Act based on the Snitike v. School Board Case Law where the advisory group recommendations were approved as presented. So the meeting that was a closed session meeting was supposed to be open. And it was determined in Court it was supposed to be an open meeting because they made the deliberation. And the school board did not at the open meeting. And they did it in closed session. And I believe this is what happened here.

Now, my question to you is: Where did the recommendations for the rules of procedure that for the Rules of Procedure that you have now come from? You hired an attorney. You did not even request their by vote to draft Bylaws and she just kind of came up with them. So who authored them?

They were very eloquent. And I believe that she reassembled that ad hoc committee and got with the experts and said, oh, okay, we are going to put this together. And then they did it again. They did that in closed session. And then you approved it as presented and it was over three weeks that was done. And she kept going back, you would have discussions, and she would go back and a draft, based on a discussion, over three meetings. And the same thing was done with job descriptions. It said approved -- the main motion was approved as amended. That's completely out of order and --

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Your allotted two minutes is ended.

>> And please consider my request for a special meeting concerning the Bylaws to amend and review this and to get a certified parliamentarian. Hire a certified parliamentarian that knows what they are talking about.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Your allotted two minutes has ended.

>> The attorneys are very confused and I would believe you contact your personal attorneys, too.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Moving on to acknowledgments or that concludes our public comment for our hearing today.

And moving on to acknowledgments. Without objection, our Executive Director will now provide acknowledgments.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you, Commissioner Kellom. We just want to thank the volunteers who came out tonight, especially the League of Women Voters who have helped staff set up public hearings. And it's kind for them to come and help with getting people registered and getting name tags and making everyone feel welcome.

And also wanted to thank everyone who provided public comment this evening. If you would like to give us more public comment, please go to the public tool at Michigan.Gov/MICRC. We really encourage you to share your thoughts with us.

And, lastly, if you're interested in attending another public hearing or you want to invite your family and friends to come to another part of the state, we will be in Flint and Dearborn next week.

Tuesday we will be in Flint and Thursday in Dearborn. The public hearings will start at 6:00 p.m., and you are more than welcome to join us and share your thoughts or encourage others to do so.

So thank you again for being here.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you, Sue.

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As the items on the agenda are completed and the Commission has no further business, a motion to adjourn is in order. May I have a motion to adjourn?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So moved.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Motion made by Commissioner Witjes. May I have a second?
Commissioner Lett made the second.

And all in favor raise your hand and say aye.

>> Aye.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: All opposed raise your hand and say Nay. The ayes prevail.
We are adjourned at 9:15.

Thank you so much for attending. Everyone travel well and be safe.

[Meeting concludes at 9:15 p.m.]