

**MICHIGAN  
INDEPENDENT  
CITIZENS  
REDISTRICTING  
COMMISSION**



Communities of Interest Process

# Why Communities of Interest are Important in Redistricting



- Because COI are the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked criteria in the Michigan Constitution
- To promote fair, representative districts by reflecting diverse communities and their distinct interests
- To keep common interest groups intact, so they can have an opportunity to vote for representatives, who will be responsive to their unique interests
- To encourage continuing interaction and civic engagement among community members in the communities in which they live



# What are Communities of Interest?

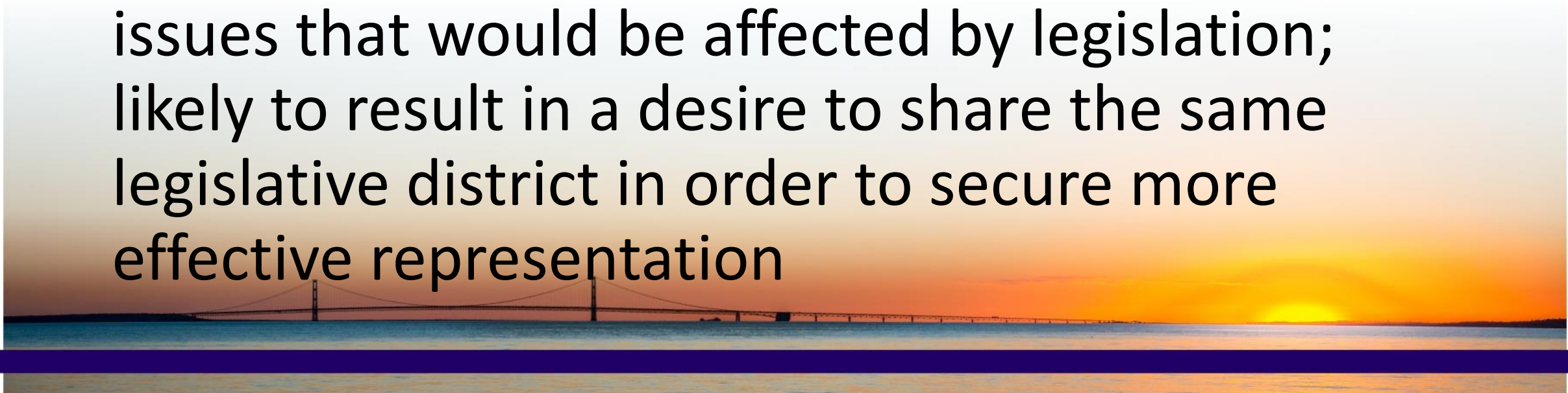
Criteria #3: “Districts shall reflect the state’s diverse population and communities of interest . . . may include, but shall not be limited to, populations that share cultural or historical characteristics or economic interests . . . do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.”





# Characteristics of Communities of Interest

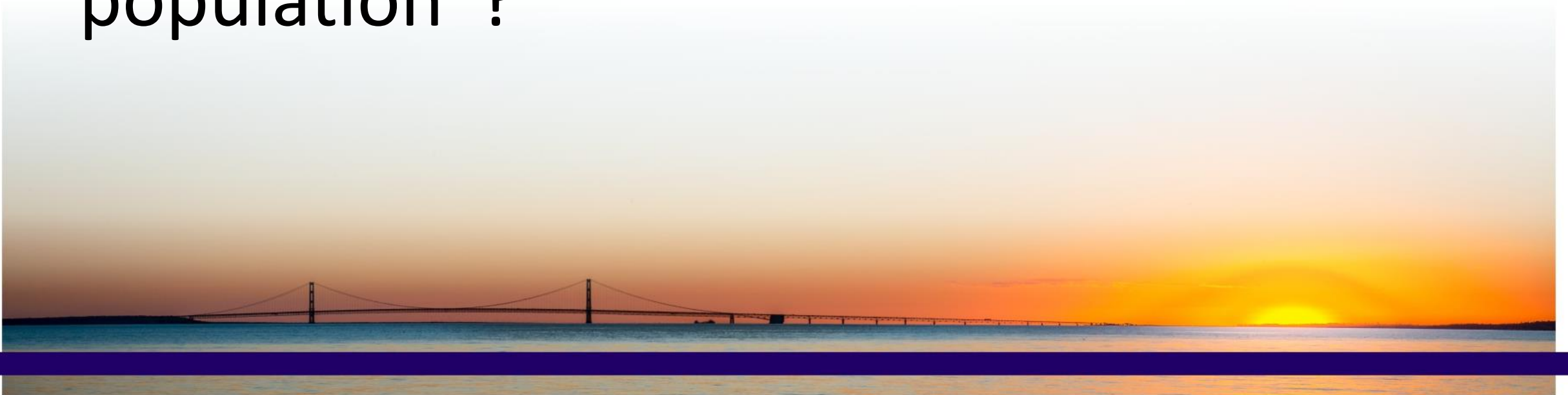
- Self-defined by the local community members
- Associated with a contiguous area on a map
- Shared common bonds linked to public policy issues that would be affected by legislation; likely to result in a desire to share the same legislative district in order to secure more effective representation





## Discussion Question

How will Commissioners assure that the districts reflect “the state’s diverse population”?



# How will the Commission define and incorporate cultural characteristics?



Culture: Artistic and intellectual pursuits/products, including the arts, letters, manners; ways of living transmitted from one generation to the next; a form or stage of civilization; behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a social, ethnic, or age group





## How will the Commission define and incorporate historical characteristics?

History: Past events and times relating to people, country, or time period; aggregate or record of past events; a notable past; acts, ideas or events that will shape the future



# How will the Commission define and incorporate economic interests?



Economic: the production, distribution, and use of income, wealth and commodities; affecting or apt to affect the welfare of material resources; financial considerations; wealth and wage disparities





What about “districts may include but shall not be limited to”



# Other Questions



- How will the Commission handle conflicting input?
- How will the high volume of public comment and overlapping COI districts be handled?
- How will the Commission take into consideration one person vs. many providing input on a COI? What about better resourced groups vs. those with fewer resources?
- How does the Commission envision the approach to honoring the Constitutional COI criteria, now that we're beginning to see the data?

