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MICRC

10/20/21 1:00 pm Public Hearing

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>> CHAIR SZETELA:

Thank you, good afternoon I apologize in the delay, on getting started. As Chair of the Commission, we will bring the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 1:25 p.m.

This Zoom webinar is being live streamed on YouTube at the www.Michigan.gov/MICRC Commission YouTube channel.

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

Our live stream today includes closed captioning. Closed captioning, ASL interpretation, and Spanish and Arabic and Bengali translation services will be provided for effective participation in this meeting. Please 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 also being recorded and will be available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC for viewing at a later date and this meeting also is being transcribed and those closed captioned transcriptions will be made available and posted on 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 both the Commission and the public.

Members of the media who may have questions before, during or after the meeting should direct those questions to Edward Woods III, our Communications and Outreach Director for the Commission at WoodsE3@Michigan.gov or 517-331-6309.

For the purposes of the public watching and for the public record I will now turn to the Department of State staff to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good afternoon, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please announce you are attending remotely and disclose your physical location where you are attending from.

I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

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- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.
- >> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?
- >> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?
- >> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present from Reed City,

Michigan.

- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?
- >> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?
- >> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present; attending remotely from

Battle Creek, Michigan.

- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?
- >> VICE COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?
- >> CHAIR SZETELA: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?
- >> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?
- >> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Present; attending remotely from

Eaton County, Michigan.

- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?
- >> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?
- >> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.
- >> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: 12 Commissioners are present.

And there is a quorum.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you. You can view the agenda at Michigan.gov/MICRC.

I would now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda. So moved. Motion made by Commissioner Witjes. Seconded by Rothhorn. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Seeing It is moved and seconded the agenda will be approved all in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the motion is adopted.

Without objection I will ask Executive Director Hammersmith to present the 2021 fiscal year end budget as well as the draft 2022 fiscal year budget.

Please proceed Ms. Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Okay, all right, so the fiscal year 2021 budget is not yet totally and will be some trailing expenses but this has been provided to the Commission ahead of the meeting.

I just would ask if the Commission has any questions.

There is currently 13,700 in funds spent in the budget.

And that will cover the cables that will come in yet in the next couple weeks.

But any questions on 2021 and where we are? I will give you a final budget when it's final.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Are there any questions for our Executive Director? All right, hearing none I would entertain a motion to approve the draft fiscal year 2022 budget. So moved.

Second.

Who made the motion? Motion made by Commissioner Lett seconded by Commissioner Rothhorn is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none it has been moved and seconded that we adopt the draft fiscal year 2022 budget. All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the motion is adopted.

Next on the agenda are the minutes for approval from September 29, two sets of minutes from September 30, the minutes from October 1, 4 and 5 meetings. Minutes have been provided to the Commission prior to the meeting are there any edits to any of the meeting minutes? Hearing none may I have a motion to approve the minutes oh, Commissioner Orton I see your hand raised.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yeah, so on September 29th, on the top of Page 3 it says 11:18 p.m. and it should be a.m. and the on October 4th similar top of Page 3 it says 11:57 p.m. and it should be a.m.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: That was the September 29 Page 3 and which was the other one.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: October 4 Page three.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so we will make that adjustment, correct that clerical error on the September 29 meeting minutes so may I have a motion to approve the September 29, 2021, meeting minutes as corrected by Commissioner Orton? So moved.

Motion made by Commissioner Witjes seconded by Commissioner Lett is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Hearing none let's vote on approving the September 29, 2021, meeting minutes as corrected all in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the meeting minutes are adopted.

May I have a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 30, 2021.

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So moved.

Motion made by Commissioner Witjes seconded by Commissioner Lett.

All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

May I also have a motion to approve the second set of meeting minutes from September 30, 2021.

So moved.

Seconded.

Motion made by Commissioner Witjes and seconded by Commissioner Rothhorn all in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the second set of meeting minutes from September 30, 2021, are adopted.

May I have a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 1, 2021? So moved.

We have a motion made by Commissioner Kellom a second by Commissioner Lett.

To approve the meeting minutes from October 1, 2021, all in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the meeting minutes from October 1, 2021, are adopted.

May I have a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 4, 2021, with the correction of the clerical error on Page three as pointed out by Commissioner Orton.

Motion made by Commissioner Lett.

Seconded by Commissioner Witjes.

All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the motion is adopted.

I would now entertain a motion to approve the meets minutes from October motion bid Commissioner Lett and Commissioner all in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

The ayes prevail the meeting minutes are adopted.

Next on the agenda will be a discussion of media reports.

Hearing no objection this is simply a request for Commissioners.

We typically receive media reports from our communications and Outreach Director e-mailed to us each day.

There has been a request to determine if you still desire to continue receiving those.

The default will be you will continue to receive them unless you indicate to our director Woods that you no longer wish to receive those meeting reports, so if you do not want to receive them anymore.

You feel they are not useful to you or cluttering up your e-mail box let director Woods know and he will remove you from the e-mail chains.

Next on agenda is public hearings and debriefing sessions without objection I will ask Executive Director Hammersmith to provide a brief information.

Please proceed Ms. Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: In the interest of time this afternoon, I want to say that the Commissioners were provided with the two pages of the mapping process and procedures that includes the public hearings and the briefing sessions.

We will begin the briefing at our meeting tomorrow when we will talk about the comments that were heard today from the public.

And the Commission will then create a log of considerations that they will start editing the maps on October 27.

So thank you for your public comment.

We appreciate it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Executive Director Hammersmith.

Are there any comments or questions for our Executive Director? Otherwise we will move on to our welcome and introduction so we can move on to public comment.

Without objection our host Commissioner Brittini Kellom will now provide a brief presentation.

Hearing no objection please proceed Commissioner Kellom.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Good afternoon, everybody.

Good afternoon on behalf of the Independent Redistricting Commission thank you for joining us today.

We need you to show up and speak and help us draw fair maps.

In 2018 voters by more than 61% empowered citizens not legislatures to draw fair maps.

Consequently the MICRC represents an initiative by Michigan residents and not liberals, moderates or conservatives.

Voters made an intentional and deliberate effort to form the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission by filling in the yes oval on proposal 2018-2.

Every ten years following the U.S. census District lines for U.S. Congressional, state, house and State Senate must be redrawn in states across the country to accurately reflect their population.

The process of drawing District lines is known as redistricting.

In Michigan there are 161 Congressional, State Senate and State House districts that need to be drawn for the 2022 election.

For the first time in Michigan's history residents have an opportunity to provide input on drawing maps for Michigan's Congressional, house and Senate districts.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: At this point we will ask executive Hammersmith to do her presentation about public comment, the public hearing, sorry.

Please proceed Executive Director Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you very much.

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A little bit about the public hearings.

This is our second round of public hearings.

Public hearings to be held through this week into next week.

Per the Constitution the goal of these public hearings is to solicit public comments about the proposed each proposed plan includes the census data, the map and the legal description.

Those are all found on our website.

Michigan.gov/MICRC.

There are 20 proposed draft maps.

Ten are collaborative.

They were drawn in open transparent sessions by this Commission working together to create the ten collaborative maps.

Additionally Commissioners were able to propose their own maps so there are ten individual maps for Congressional Commissioner Clark Eid Lange and Szetela created maps for consideration for State Senate Commissioners Eid Lange and Szetela submitted maps and for house Commissioners Clark Orton and Szetela submitted maps.

The redistricting criteria are in the Constitution.

They are in rank order.

First districts have to be of equal population and comply with the Voting Rights Act.

Secondly, they have to be geographically contiguous.

Third reflect the state's diversity and communities of interest.

Fourth the districts cannot favor or disfavor an incumbent elected official or candidate and shall reflect consideration of City, Township boundaries and lastly be reasonably compact and it's a tall order in our Constitution mandated for the districts.

The process for adopting maps is also in the Constitution.

The Constitution states that after these public hearings the Commission shall follow the procedure in adopting the plans for Congressional, State Senate and State House maps.

So before voting to adopt a plan they will have to test the plan for compliance with the redistricting criteria.

After November 27-November 5 they will work again on draft proposed maps and approve the maps that will be published for a 45 day period for public comment.

That public comment will end around December 29th and on December 20th the Commission plans to adopt the maps that will be -- that they have created for the State of Michigan with the citizen input.

So the only organization that has jurisdiction over this Commission is the Michigan Supreme Court.

They have jurisdiction over the process.

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They can review at its discretion any challenges to the maps adopted by the Commission.

If a plan fails to comply, they can remand that the Commission go back to work and make it comply with the Constitution.

And again this is the only body that can create and adopt maps for Michigan's Congressional, house and Senate districts.

Next, I'd like to welcome General Counsel Julianne Pastula.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much Executive Director Hammersmith. I'm Julianne Pastula, I'm the General Counsel for the Commission.

And it's wonderful to be at TCF center in Detroit with all of you today.

I'm going to cover very briefly our public hearing guidelines.

So the public comment procedure each speaker will have one minute and 30 seconds time limit for their remarks.

The timer will begin when you begin speaking.

You may not yield your time to another speaker.

In person participants will go first.

Then our remote participants participating via Zoom.

A reminder to please address your comments to the Commission as a body, not one individual Commissioner.

And that if you are addressing your remarks towards a specific map or a specific map in the portal to allow time for that to be pulled up.

Any person making personal and pertinent slanderous or boisterous while addressing the Commission may be requested to leave the microphone.

And any meeting attendee who causes an actual breach of peace at the meeting may be also ruled out of order and asked to exit.

But the Commission is very much looking forward to hearing your comments and your feedback and I believe that will conclude my public hearing guidelines.

Thank you so much again for being with us today.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you General Counsel.

Without objection we are now going to be pet gin public comment for our meeting.

Hearing no objection we will proceed with the 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.

I will call you up in groups of four and pick a side and line up behind the microphone I find it makes it go efficiently you will have 90 seconds to address the Commission.

Please conclude your remarks when your 90 seconds has ended and hear the timer and encourage everyone to go to the public comment tool and share in writing including specific areas of the map or maps which you are speaking.

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Public comment tool is available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.

And there is a public comment station here tonight with volunteers to assist you in accessing the website if you would like assistance.

If you have a time constraint or do not wish to wait, please use the public comment portal.

First in line to provide public comment is number one and I would like to call out numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Number one you can address the Commission.

>> My name is Jay from Wayne County voters passed the Voters Not Politicians measure expecting to see common sense in the boundaries.

We didn't need to pass an amendment to enforce the VRA or dictate population equality for our districts.

The Michigan amendment also held out the promise of logical compact districts which represented our communities of interest.

My COI is the Grosse Pointe community and elicit ten reasons why the points should be treated as a COI in every map.

Number one the taxpayers of the five points along with a portion of Harper Woods have a common public school District and a superintendent and millage rates.

Number two the same school boundaries define our Grosse Pointe library District.

Number three the fire response is unified by mutual aid agreement.

Number four the six municipalities operate their own municipal points and two share the same Judge.

Serve two hospitals and Henry Ford medical center.

The points are common to the points is the Grosse Pointes symphony and Grosse Pointe theatre.

Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce also exists each of the points is oriented towards a common geographical feature like St. Clair And Street names like Lake share, St. Clair, shore crest et cetera.

The points are connected to Macomb County in part because Grosse Pointe shores is in the Lake Township of Macomb County.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Before you speak number two Commissioner Lange, we did not catch your vote on the budget could you state your vote on the budget for the record, please.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Nay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Lange.

Number two you can go ahead.

>> Good morning or good afternoon my name is grace green I'm a proud member of UAW163 Dr. Martin Luther king says injustice is a threat to everywhere and to redistrict

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an area to give one group an advantage over another group is unfair, unacceptable and it will disenfranchise many people.

There is more work that needs to be done to ensure fairness across the board.

Fair maps thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number three.

>> Maria Simon Grosse Pointe Farms under the current configuration of State Senate District 7 the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods have very little in common with the rural Macomb and southern St. Clair counts except to Lake St. Clair and the east side of Detroit have several shared and common interests like original bus system culture and recreational and are served by regional medical facilities and share shopping districts including those along Mac, Kercheval, Charlevoix and East Jefferson. The Gross Points and Harper Woods communities share a common border with the east side of the state of Detroit, Lake St. Clair and Detroit River.

The communities share common recreation and environmental concerns with the Lake and river, along with air quality. The communities share common governmental interests and are part of and served by Wayne County Government. And the communities share educational services.

The Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods are in the Grosse Pointes school system. And the communities share values regarding social justice and civic activism led by the inter jurisdictional League of Women Voters and the Grosse Pointe Harper and NAACP and WGP a Grosse Pointe based social group.

Please do not separate us.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number four.

>> Good afternoon.

My name is Natalie and I am a native Detroiter.

I'm asking Detroit to wake up.

I'm committed to ensuring that all African/American communities are equally and fairly represented as required under the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

My view of the maps submitted by the MICRC I believe that they do not represent the best interests of African/American voters in their ability to select and represent the best interests of African/Americans in Congress, the State Senate, and the Michigan house of representatives.

Although African/American population shifted in southeastern Michigan and mainly if Detroit to surrounding suburbs located in north and east of Detroit the Commission's attend to avoid gerrymander and include African/Americans failed to address several important issues for electing or retaining an African/American elected official difficult to virtually impossible in some districts.

A report recently issued by the Michigan State University's institute of public policy and social research concludes that the methodologies used by the Commission breaks up part geographically compact Black majority in the City of Detroit.

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Dispensing them in less compact districts that radiate out for the City of Detroit to suburban parts of Macomb and Oakland County.

As a result the maps feature 0 Black majority districts.

I'm asking Detroiters to stay and if we cannot consist have a consistent on the map I would recommend that we should look.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Your allotted 90 seconds has ended could you please conclude your statement.

Ma'am, out of respect for the fellow ma'am you are being disruptive we have a lot of people here who want to speak today so please honor the time limits.

Thank you.

Five, six, seven and eight.

>> Number five you can go ahead when you reach the podium.

>> Good afternoon, Commission and staff my name is Sharon Wilson.

I was born, raised and educated in the City of Detroit.

I now serve on the board of Delta manor which is a senior apartment complex located on the west side of the City.

I am vested.

Please note issues important to the African/American community have not been given sufficient attention.

Commissioners, now is the time to address these injustices via a correction of the proposed maps.

VRA districts must be created to allow Black voters to elect representatives of their choice.

Thus consideration of voting participation and election results must be taken into consideration.

Currently you have cracked multiple districts and have weakened our voice.

I support the promote the vote maps for Congress, map ID0615.

And the Michigan State University institute for social policy and public research recommendation that the MICRC reevaluate its approach towards compliance with the V RA.

No excuses.

We are demanding fair and equitable maps.

Thank you for listening.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number six.

>> Good afternoon my name is Christine Peck and I'm a resident of Birmingham I was also an active volunteer in the 2018 prop two ballot initiative.

I participated in the process and continue to be invested because I believe a basic requirement of a true democracy is the right for citizens to choose their elected officials by vote.

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In my consideration the maps as currently drawn do not yet give every vote equal worth and urge the Commission to continue their work.

More specifically I've looked at the Commission's proposed State House map of Birmingham compared to proposed house map created by the Michigan fair maps project in my opinion the fair maps version which aligns Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills recommends the safety and synchronicities of the two adjacent communities and encourage you to consider adopting the fair maps recommendation.

Lastly, I want to reiterate our colleagues mention of the Michigan State University's recent report.

Analyzing the proposed maps and their potential impact on Black communities justification on how the plans comply with Voting Rights Act and the related equal protection clause is needed for the benefit of all Metro Detroiters.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number seven.

>> Hello, my name is Dana Hill I'm a Wayne County resident.

And I would like for you to follow the Constitution.

Partisan fairness is about local boundaries and compactness.

Communities of interest are not perfect rectangles.

Do not be afraid of unpacking cities.

And do not be afraid of weird shapes, funny shapes are okay.

But we but what not is okay is the map that doesn't represent Michigan.

Look at the AFLCIO fair maps project for ideas on how to get to partisan fairness while complying with all other criteria too.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number eight.

>> My name is Dave Sampson I'm 48329 County of Oakland.

The U.S. representative map Maple is good.

The Juniper are dead and Spruce is okay.

Cherry and elm are bad.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Mr. Sampson apologies could you speak closer to the microphone our interpreters are struggling to hear you.

>> Representative Pine is poor, the oak and beach are bad.

Pine splits Royal Oak where I used to live for 40 years.

Also its worst feature is west of the Dequindre and 12 mile where it splits Madison Heights and cuts the north south snake District in half with this thing.

Since these snake shaped districts are all active primary areas of Oakland County, the Wayne portion will be effectively ignored.

This may not pass the Voting Rights Act and end up in Court which is why I'm trying to -- which is what I'm trying to prevent.

The areas should be contiguous.

They should be circles or squares.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Numbers nine, ten, 11 and 12 you may now approach the microphone and number nine when you approach the microphone you can begin speaking.

>> Good afternoon my name is Cindy and I live in Royal Oak.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at this meeting.

I know we are all here to talk about District boundaries.

Within the State of Michigan.

But for the moment I would like to ignore those District lines and look at look at Michigan electorate for the proverbial 30,000 feet point of view.

As you know for political offices that include all Michigan voters, democrats hold most seats including our two U.S. Senators and Governor and our Secretary of State and our Attorney General.

The District maps being drawn right now should reflect the majority blue the Michigan electorate and ask they be aligned so Detroit citizens have several districts of at least 51 percentage minority voters and follow the MSU research.

Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you and look forward to having new drawn lines that reflect today's Michigan electorate.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number ten.

>> My name is Colleen.

And I live in Brownstown but today I'm here to talk about Detroit.

The largest City in the State of Michigan needs fair maps.

And representation that look like them.

I'm asking you to take metrics into account.

Do not disenfranchise the Detroit voters and satisfy the partisan fairness we are all asking for.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 11.

>> Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen and members of the Commission.

My name is Ray and I work at Detroit diesel corporation and am a 32 year member of UAW local 163.

The UAW has thousands of members in the Detroit Metropolitan area and as you know the UAW votes.

When we voted for the Michigan independent citizens Redistricting Commission in November of 2018, we expected an end to the ridiculous partisan gerrymandering of election districts in Michigan that plagued our body politic for generations.

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However, if the proposed map this Commission has published stands it's as if the democratic party and independents on this Commission had their voices completely silenced.

Primarily in the City of Detroit.

This proposed map spreads the African/American block into multiple districts where their voting influence is greatly diminished and probably violates what is left of the Federal Voting Rights Act.

By the Trump support Court it was supposed to protect a voting groups ability to elect candidates but this Commission proposed map will rob the African/American community of the biggest City the edge in the population of Detroit allowing carpet baggers from suburbs and Lansing to dictate policy where and how state and Federal funds are spent for so many necessary endeavors in our City.

For shame.

This is not what we sent you here to do.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 12.

>> My name is Marianne and live in hunting ton Woods Michigan.

I appreciate what you're doing Commissioners and as I delved into the maps, I cannot imagine the complexity of the work however today I want to focus on my State House District 21 on all of the maps.

The efficiency gap is between 5.7 and 7.4% this is definitely completely wrong.

If you keep in mind that many elections in our state are decided by less percentages than that, that needs to be reconsidered so first of all District 21 you drew part of 7 cities Detroit, Huntington Woods, Berkeley, Royal Oak, Oak Park, and Clawson, parts of all of these cities which amounts to an African/American population between 48-50% depending on the particular map. You have not drawn a majority minority District even though I believe that some of your work has been to do vertical as opposed to horizontal districts.

But this did not accomplish the goal of having any kind of minority majority districts so what I believe that you need to do is you need to create horizontal districts in the area between Woodward and green field north of 8 mile and the same thing, the same area south of 8 mile.

So this could give you a majority Black District.

Otherwise you will be totally disenfranchising the votes of Black Americans thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Commenters 13, 14, 15 and 16 may approach the microphone and number 13 when you reach the podium you are free to speak.

>> Good afternoon, Commission my name is Norman from Detroit.

I'm here today to ask you guys to make sure you are listening to the people out here in the community.

I understand that you guys have a tough job to do.

This is not my first time speaking to you guys.

And how you have done the districts using 35 percentage of how you are drawing is inaccurate based on the primary of what happened last year and Michigan has low primaries so I'm asking you to go back and redraw the maps not as fast as you can but as accurate as you can and increase it up to 50% and you get the accurate message you need out here.

Also think about the people you represent.

Hear what we are saying and not go by idly and hear what I say.

That is all I ask.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 14.

>> Hi can you hear? You got my thing on the screen.

Can you throw yours up Congressional up on the screen next to it before you start the clock.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: We are only able to share one map at a time.

>> Yeah, so this is the Congressional you know map I came up with.

It's not really the best option but at least it's something different this is Anthony in southwest Detroit and care about southwest and Down River.

Your Congressional maps have the same configuration throughout Apple, Birch, Cedar, Maple and V1RAS240 all use the same configuration for Congressional one and it's not the UP Commissioner Lange and Kellom when you were on the thing yesterday Congressional District one is right here in Detroit and they use the same for six out of your 7, 8 maps.

There was nothing methodical about it Commissioner Rothorn and you said it was methodically drawn and we lean on the data and it drove us here.

I watched every meeting the data did not drive you to what you draw for Congressional District one for Detroit.

If I want to ride a bus from the bottom to the top, I have to make a transfer.

If I ride a bus from the bottom of mine where Down River is to the top, I can pick 3, 4, 5, 6 buses to take me all the way.

That is one basis by which I just came up with that.

And so you copied and pasted it.

Then Commissioner Eid you just switched out Warren for Romulus and that is different not really.

Commissioner Lange I appreciate you for at least trying to draw something different so please make wholesale change.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 15.

>> Nina from south Oakland.

In the State House and Senate maps two different communities of interest are being treated unfairly.

Southeast Oakland County and Detroit.

They lack partisan fairness and their vote is unnecessarily diluted.

A solution for both house and Senate districts is to take the fourth, the four southeast Oakland districts, Detroit districts running along 8 mile to divide the block of voters horizontally and not vertically which is now combining Oakland and Wayne County.

These new horizontal districts would represent communities that are tied to each other economically.

You would have two Detroit districts and two south Oakland districts.

All the districts would represent their community of interest.

In the Peach and Szetela map this would be combined and divide districts 16, 21, 18 and 8.

In the Szetela Senate map, which is the best of what we have, it would be districts 9, 14, 13 and 8.

Another major problem is when you're drawing maps you are not considering municipal lines.

I'm thinking about the nightmare that the City clerks are going to have to put out ballots and the access costs that is going to be to all the municipalities when we don't follow lines.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 16.

>> Hello, my name is Marianne I'm a 25 year resident of Novi.

That is located in southwestern Oakland County.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to testify today.

In 2018 an overwhelming majority of Michiganders voted for fair maps.

Not just maps that are a little bit better than the gerrymandered maps.

But maps without partisan bias.

Maps that are fair to everyone in our state.

My feedback starts specifically today on the State Senate Elm map plan 199.

The partisan fairness measure show clear republican bias and make this map completely unacceptable.

Specifically on District number 11, this combines communities in three different Counties.

Including rural Washtenaw County that has nothing in common with the rest of District 11.

And should be completely removed from that District.

Also this map slices up the Detroit population across eight districts and combines them with heavily white suburbs and even rural Taylor community.

This eliminates the Detroiters opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.

Please reevaluate these districts.

My next feedback is on the specific state maps plans 227, 228 and 229.

All three house maps have a significant republican bias, none of these maps are fair.

Specifically in District 110.

Every one of these maps divides.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Your 90 seconds is up.

Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 17, 18, 19 and 20 and number 17 when you reach the microphone you may begin speaking.

>> Hello Commissioners and thank you for your work.

I appreciate the effort to remove politics from the political process.

However, I also want to express my concerns of elimination of a District and possible of decreased representation of a minority community that needs it the most in Detroit.

My name is and my family and I live in the City of Rochester. I'm a member of the Sikh faith.

I'm here today to speak on behalf of my religious community in Oakland and Macomb Counties because we have not yet advocated for ourselves in this progress. As a smaller community we used to be together to amplify our voice and have our Congress person notice us as a constituency group.

Our concerns are not only for our own religious community, but the communities at large which we live in. That is why I'm supporting the Birch version of the draft map, which keeps the Sikh places of worship in Oakland, Macomb Counties together by keeping Troy, Rochester, Rochester Hills and Sterling Heights in one District.

We will see many comments from my community on the Birch map. I ask you to consider Michigan six of community of interest on the final Congressional map. Thank you for the opportunity to comment today.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 18.

>> This Commission was set up to prevent partisan fairness gerrymandering.

The members on this committee should be ashamed of the stacking cracking and packing these so called maps put forward and show.

People see through this.

How much influence has Alec had on Commissioners and the map, ALEC, how much influence have they had on you guys? Start over.

Those maps are garbage.

Go with the maps with the AFLCIO, promote the vote and the Showers, Schwartz maps. Start with those and start over.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 19.

>> Good afternoon, Commission my name is Yvette Anderson.

We need you to draw maps that are 51% Black.

We know that you can draw better maps for Black Michiganders.

Honor the Voting Rights Act to ensure Black people are able to elect leaders that look like themselves.

Let's not return to the Jim crow politics of old.

Going from 17 majority Black districts to 0 is unacceptable.

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Wayne County community college District is the largest community college District in the state and it deserves and needs to have Detroit elected officials to advocate for policies and programs that benefit the college.

It has unique needs.

Other than Oakland and Macomb and splitting up these community college districts is asking one elected official to represent them is highly problematic.

It will have conflicting funding priorities.

One elected official will not be able to effectively represent Wayne County community college District if you have unpacked the Wayne County into other Counties.

We ask you to honor the voting rights act and draw fair maps now.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 20.

>> Good evening fellow patrons my name is less little from Detroit.

I have experienced redistricting most of the last 20 years with the emergency manager.

When the emergency manager came in, they redistricted our vote any way.

And the process that you've come up with this time it seems like it's following in that mindset of emergency manager.

So take in consideration of the population of Detroit and the strong African/American population of Detroit when y'all go back to the drawing board.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Numbers 21, 22, 23, and 24 and 21 when you reach the podium feel free to begin speaking.

>> Good afternoon.

My name is Vicki Dobbins from River Rouge, Ecorse, and Southwest Detroit.

We are asking you take more time and look at the redistricting that you're doing to the southwest area.

We stand a chance of losing a representative or maybe a Congress person.

We cannot afford to lose anybody in our District.

I'd like to ditto on everything that everyone has already said.

But at the same time we need representation in our area.

We face a lot of pollution issues.

And without representation, we do not stand to win anything.

So please take a look at how you are redistricting our areas and think about the people, think about the community, I don't know who you're thinking about, but it could not be the people of southwest Detroit.

River Rouge and Ecorse.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 22.

>> Good afternoon my name is Samsung a union member of local 1191 of Detroit.

And in the most recent proposed maps Detroit is chopped up into thin strips and put them with heavily white areas in the suburbs.

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It's important to me that Detroit be able to elect its own representatives and I'm not sure your maps will guaranty that.

Look at the AFLCIO fair maps project for ideas on how to get to partisan fairness while respecting real communities of interest.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 23.

>> I am Susan.

I live in northwest Detroit in north Rosedale Park and I'm a proud member of Congressional District 13.

I've lived in Detroit since 1975.

I know you have a very difficult job and I know you're doing it to the best of your ability. However, the currently drawn map cracks my neighborhood and puts my neighborhood in a Congressional District combined with suburban Livonia which I think is 95 percentage white.

I and my neighbors in Detroit in this northwest Detroit are truly a community of interest and have different concerns and needs than suburban Livonia.

I know the intent of this map is not racist.

But it is functionally racist because it dilutes the Black vote.

And will decrease Black representation.

There are examples of maps that are fairer.

Check out the AFLCIO and one fair vote as possible guides.

I think it is incumbent upon you to draw maps that are fair for my neighbors or me and for all Detroiters.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 24.

>> My name is Rick blocker.

And excuse me.

I come today to ask again that you draw majority-minority maps and districts.

We have Black people in the State of Michigan representing 14% of the population.

We currently represent 12% of the people in the State Senate and the State House.

We represent six percent of people in the Congress of the United States.

Under your current proposal that number could be eliminated to no representatives in the Congressional and very few, if any, in the State House and State Senate.

You must do better.

We deserve fair representation.

The people in this area have fought hard.

We cannot go backwards.

We are sick and tired of being sick and tired.

We need fair maps now.

We need for you to stop, no excuses, draw fair maps.

Make sure we have Black representation.

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If that current Congressional maps you have, neither one of them and I looked at all the maps on the portal goes to 50%.

If you have to go to other communities where Black people are to get 50%, you need to do so.

It is not acceptable for us to have the maps that does not reflect our community and does not protect Black people in this area.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Numbers 25, 26, 27, and 28 please approach the microphone and number 25 you can begin speaking. And just to orient people online watching proceedings, we are at 25 and at it for about 35 minutes.

We currently have 116 people signed up for in person public comment.

So it is likely that we will not get to online remote public comments before the 3:30 close and I think we are probably going to push a little past 3:30 to give people more time to speak so orient the people online we are 25 and have 116 in person.

Go ahead number 25.

>> Thank you, good afternoon, everyone my name is Michael and I'm here with my vice president Tonya Ray and Michelle Thomas and Pam Smith and other members of labor unions.

Michigan independent Redistricting Commission you are failing us.

Congress will not end the filibuster so John Lewis Voting Rights Act and freedom to vote act are laying in the waste land.

States right has been the excuse for not passing that legislation and it has been historically been the reason for the disenfranchise of Black Brown Jews and others and needs to focus on Michigan rights and do the right thing for the state and citizens.

Fair should be the benchmark your plan negates what fairness and voting democracy in the communities.

Your plan for the next ten years denies Black Brown in Michigan the opportunity to select representatives from their neighborhoods to send to Lansing, Washington or the school boards.

You can incorporate the AFLCIO maps project or the Michigan Black caucus or even come to the UAW or CBT and we will improve your product to present to the people that will provide racial justice and ensure nonpartisan fairness.

Do the right thing.

Do not put barriers on our boundaries and chains on our voting machines.

Please do not sell the citizens of Michigan by offering a youth that divides us and greatness and power of our democracy.

We all know the big lie.

We ask you today why.

We are asked to have maps on behalf of the politicians or the people in power.

We must protect the voice of people.

Do the right thing.

Listen, think and act.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 26.

>> Good afternoon my name is Carla Meijer and I'm from Troy and Oakland County. New House District 32 which is all of Troy is perfect.

Thank you.

New Congressional District 6 not so much.

Troy and Oakland County share new districts with Macomb County.

I lived in Troy since the early 70s but I have always been employed in Oakland I'm sorry always been employed in Macomb County and I know we are not communities of common interest nor do we share common characteristics.

The new Congressional District 6 needs work.

It needs work.

As proposed currently proposed it weighs heavily republican.

Troy should be with Oakland County as proposed on the Juniper maps all other maps it's with Macomb and affiliates with Oakland County and school and library affiliations bus teams Commerce and our Oakland County water resource efforts and goes to Lake St. Clair and the City of St. Clair shores a Lake voting community with nothing similar to Troy.

My ask is that Troy and other Oakland cities that have been placed in CD6 be moved to neighboring CD3 it just makes sense.

Over all maps must be completely nonpartisan and must, must comply with the Voting Rights Act rules.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 27.

>> Good afternoon, Commissioners.

My name is Betty Edwards, I'm a lifelong Detroitter who has voted in every election since I was 18.

I'm a concerned citizen.

And also a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority. It was created for Black people to elect representatives that look like them and of their choosing.

Your current maps crack Detroit and make this impossible by radically changing districts.

Today that means congresswoman Tali, Senator Stephanie Chang and Guise and rep Sarah Anthony's community should not be carved up into districts that do not keep their communities' interests together.

By keeping Taylor in the Down River communities, keeping the lower east side as one community and unpacking Ann Arbor and the Senate and keeping the majority Black Lansing neighborhoods together.

We want to ensure that Black folks are kept majority minority of our districts.

So we can elect Black leadership and compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

We want fairness and equity.

Therefore I support the promote the vote maps Congress 6782, State Senate and the State House map thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 28.

>> Good afternoon, Commissioners and staff.

My name is Andria Cartwright and stand before you today on behalf of Katrina, Kemp Chapter president of Detroit alumni which is a national service organization founded in 1913.

We have over 800 members who are active voters and reside in Detroit and the Metro Plex.

Our foundation headquarters is located in the Detroit five point community of interest.

We are offering a Congressional map for your review.

Map IDF6834 as we have used important criteria of voting history and population, racial discrimination, distribution and economic impact when drawing this map.

Please note that the Voting Rights Act districts in our map are 11 and 12 and are located in Metropolitan Detroit.

For the past 45 years, African/Americans have been the majority of two Congressional districts in Metropolitan Detroit.

Our goals are to preserve districts represented by African/Americans and avoid the turnover of Black legislators representing these districts while maintaining the political power gain for the 2020 election.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Numbers 29, 30, 31 and 32.

>> And number 29 you can start speaking as soon as you reach the podium.

>> Good afternoon.

I'm Keith William chairman of MDP Michigan democrat party Black caucus we have 12 County caucus through the state and we promote the interests of African/Americans.

Today I'm asking for fairness.

And drawing these maps as well as making sure these maps are in alignment with the Voting Rights Act.

I'm a lifelong Detroiter.

And I have been voting in the District all my life.

It would be a shame and disgrace if I get there and I cannot represent my District.

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Under the auspice of fairness and I'm asking the Commission to do the right thing and slow the process down so we can make sure the maps reflect the community that they are drawn.

But most importantly it does not disenfranchise us.

I don't want to go back and you should want -- not want to take us back.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 30.

>> I'm 31.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Do we have a number 30? Okay 31 go ahead.

>> Good evening my name is Angelo weaver, Voting Rights Act a typical election in Detroit usually has multiple candidates of color.

By reducing share of African/American voters the Detroit area District you should be concerned about how the votes split.

This is very likely that 40 percentage Black districts could have representative who is not preferred by the community.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 32.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Do we have a number 32? All right at this point I'm going to call up number 33, 34, 35 and 36.

And 33 you can start once you reach the podium.

>> Good afternoon my name is Anita Burns and I'm a resident of Wayne County.

The Constitution requires partisan fairness.

You can do this while also representing communities of interest.

It may involve picking different communities of interest, but if that's what you have to do to comply with the Constitution, then you should do that.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 34.

>> Good afternoon my name is Joshua.

Local elections and representatives are the most important to us.

I'm a conservative, I'm on the other side.

But our message is the same today.

We think you're doing a very poor job.

We it's not your job to pick districts.

It's your job to take and organize the input of voters to make those districts for the people.

It is not your job to determine future elections.

That is the job of everyone in this room.

Not you.

It is not your job to make rules.

They are defined by the Constitution.

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It is not your job to tell us we are here to tell you and we would appreciate if you began to listen.

We need to amplify our voice.

We have taken this serious because we have to live with the consequences and the partisan action that is taking place.

I would like to give the committee information that I have on my area.

I'm from the Ann Arbor area and I don't think Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti should be split. They are communities that share services, they are inter meshed and should remain one unit.

Thank you and I would like to present you with these if I'm able.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 35.

>> Hi, my name is brook Harris I'm a Detroit resident first I want to thank you all for the countless hours you all have put in to give us multiple maps so we can give our opinion.

However I do wish that there were more options for Detroit.

Because majority of Black Detroit deserves the chance to be represented by Detroiters. Not just people that might share political party.

Though the Birch Pine and cherry maps the collaborative maps are the best options, they are still some problems that could be worked out.

Specifically I am a homeowner in the neighborhood of Boston Edison and the cherry map splits my neighborhood.

We are recognized historic District with tons of stuff in common and it would be great if for the first time we could be in one District and share representation.

So I'm asking you all if you could please keep my neighborhood together and also to look into other ways to divide Detroit, look into some of the maps that have been submitted by other organizations, other Detroiters, people who have input from us.

Because we deserve to have representation that lives near and looks like us.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 36.

>> Good afternoon.

I am Tonya Ray UAW local 600.

I am a native Detroit.

Where I am a union activist and a community activist.

I stand here in solidarity with all the unions and political action committee, the coalition of Black trade union where I serve as first vice president, NAACP and my fellow Detroiters when I ask you to draw fair lines for Detroit.

We want representatives that look like us, live with us, and understand the issues that Detroiters have.

And the only way we can have that is a fair line drawn for our representatives.

Again, I am the voice of the people.

I am Detroit.

I am asking for fair lines drawn for Detroiters.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Numbers 37, 38, 39 and 40 and 37 you can begin speaking when you reach the podium.

>> Hello, my name is Mary and I'm a resident of Dearborn where I lived my whole life. I would like to see Dearborn kept together because our communities deserve fair representation.

As a youth and civic engagement leader at the Arab community center for economic and social services I-seen my community disenfranchise by the election process because they do not feel heard or represented and see P6762 which keep our communities together.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 38.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Do we have a number 38 if not 39 go ahead.

>> Good evening my name is Travis Morgan.

I'm a member of the labors local 1191.

We ask that you please use more data than just the 2018 Governor primary to assess compliance.

We need these maps to be correct.

Because Detroit needs these maps so that we could become, you know, greater state and a greater City for the whole Michigan.

Thanks.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 40.

>> Good evening my name is Wayne I'm a member of 1191 labor retired for 25 years. Michigan is a democrat state and your maps lean to republican that is a horrendous advantage and your job is not done until you address that Szetela Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> I'm former State Representative and current Detroit school board member when Michigan voters voted to create this Commission it was not for you to ignore the largest community of interest socioeconomic status and/or values.

It was not for the representatives on this Commission representing the democratic party and Black communities to be asleep at the wheel.

It wasn't for you to abandon the Voting Rights Act.

Advanced by the late John Lewis.

And supported by my Congressman John Conyers it was not for you to peel off parts of Detroit and throw them in communities we have nothing in common with.

Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham, Canton, Farmington, Madison Heights, New Baltimore and Sterling Heights. How can we advocate for the community when we are cracked into eight parts when we have the republicans in part of this process, we at least advanced with two seats majority seats in Congress under your plan 0.

State Senate plans we have five seats under your plan 0.

State House we have 12 majority seats on your plan two.

It's time to go back and redraw these maps.

And get fair and equity and justice for the City of Detroit.

We deserve to have representation that looks like our community.

Don't abandon the rights of our voters.

Don't abandon the rights of our students.

Don't abandon the rights of our community.

Don't abandon the rights of social justice and labor advocates all over the State of Michigan.

We will not stop until you get it right.

Get it right for your job.

Because they are coming.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Sir what number were you?

>> I was 38.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: You're 38 okay Georgia ahead.

>> Lance local union 1191.

Do the right thing.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. I also wanted to do a last call for numbers 30 and 32 since they were not available when I called them.

All right this time we will go to 41, 42, 43, 44.

And 41 when you reach the microphone you can begin speaking.

>> Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

Members of the Commission.

I thank you for your service.

I know you've got a tough job.

Michigan needs fair Districting maps.

And maps that isolate Ann Arbor Flint and other Michigan cities from the areas around them are not fair.

What would a fair map look like? In a perfectly fair map each person's vote would have equal weight.

If a party got 51% of the vote, they would get 51% of the representatives in that election. Each District would be relatively compact and each map would ensure that interests of historically separate groups have representation.

I don't know enough about the voting rights act but I'm going to learn more before I comment on your specific proposed maps.

Now there are computer programs that can draw maps that meet the requirements of A and B that is pretty much equal partisan voting and are fairly compact.

But what they can't do is address communities of interest.

I don't know where communities of interest is defined.

It seems like a fairly nebulous thing.

I hope you would define that there are many ways to define it.

And I hope that you will give it your best shot in the next go around thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 42.

>> Promote the vote, a coalition of partners of civic groups including NAACP and access and Detroit action and others has submitted maps to the Commission which were fair and equitable for all citizens.

Promote the vote utilized same data and adhered by the same criteria required by the Michigan Constitution to create the maps.

Our legislative maps have been gerrymandered for decades to protect whichever political party was in charge.

Which silenced hundreds, thousands of voters.

Promote the vote's maps eliminate partisan bias while adhering to important map drawing criteria required by the Constitution.

These maps that were submitted to you recently ensure that there are no wasted votes.

And address partisan gerrymandering and create fair districts for all people in Michigan.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 43.

>> Yes, my name is Kate.

I'm from Livonia Michigan. Thank you all for your very hard work.

I come before this Commission today to argue for partisan fairness in these maps.

The purpose of proposition two was to produce maps that were nonpartisan and fair to all Michigan voters.

The time for partisan ship comes with the campaigns.

Through the quality of the candidates, the quality of their campaigns.

And they win or lose based on that.

And not because of the percentage of voters in a particular area.

Who are republican or democrat.

Please also draw the maps that comply with the Voting Rights Act.

Okay, I want to speak again about Livonia.

I have spoken before about it.

And specifically I want to talk about the House District maps for Livonia.

The maps currently split Livonia into three House Districts.

Besides creating a huge problem for the City clerk and for the mayor it is splitting Livonia into three districts that disadvantage the citizens of Livonia who will be confused who the representative is.

And how can a representative fairly represent a District containing a chunk of Livonia, half of Redford and a chunk of northwest Detroit? That is unfair to African/Americans as

well. How can the representative work to address the issues in each of these communities.

Please keep Livonia intact.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 44.

>> Good afternoon I'm not 44 but I was in the hallway and missed my number so I do apologize to the Commission.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Could you let me know what number you are for the records.

>> 32.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you 32.

>> Denise Robinson and I address you again good afternoon.

And I want to continue to say I represent the 48214. I am born and raised in Detroit. Born in Canfield and Warren and Connor area.

Do not continue to put us with the Harper Woods and the points.

We do not identify.

They have buses and hookah lounges and all of that.

What we have in the 48214 is 29,800 with a single mother of 4-8 kids.

What we need is representation.

Minority mapping.

That's what we need.

We have education problems.

Our libraries are closed.

Our recreations are closed.

That's what we need.

We need fair representation.

We need someone there to continue to represent us.

You went from two now to 0.

Where is our voice? Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Are you're number 44? Go ahead, sir.

>> Thank you. My name is Bill Smith and I live in the City of Livonia, Wayne County. I'd like to comment the members of the committee and the yeoman's efforts in bringing political fairness to the apportionment process.

One part of political fairness is found in a coherent and cohesive voice in Lansing.

The proposed House District maps fracture the City of Livonia into disparate pieces.

This fracturing will result in a dramatic reduction in the singular political voice Livonia has, enjoyed for more than 70 years.

This singular voice whether it republican or democrat, has afforded Livonia the unique position of being a vibrant, fiscally stable entering suburb.

The status is a stable satellite to our state's largest City, Detroit. Acts as a force multiplying ensuring good jobs.

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Fair housing, and equal opportunity for all Wayne County residents.

Moreover, as we know, a financially vibrant Wayne County drives the economic health of the entire State of Michigan.

Therefore I urge the committee to keep Livonia whole.

Ensure political fairness.

And guaranty that this economic rebuild continues for the next ten years. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission numbers 45, 46, 47 and 48 can approach the microphone and 45 when you reach the podium you can begin speaking.

>> Commissioners, my name is Jaren of LGBT Detroit. We are North America's largest Black found and Black let LBGT nonprofit organization we submitted C819 of the Palmer Park community and it has been historically occupied by Black LBGT plus people.

Our map had the most public engagement out of any map in the state.

You asked for this engagement yet you have ignored the many requests to keep Palmer Park together.

Your maps cover this community at 78 percentage, 75 and 29 percentage.

My grandmother said 99.5 will not do.

Keep Palmer Park together.

If you need to see how kit be done see maps P900, P467, P1502 lastly decreasing the time we have to speak to you tells us you are tired of listening to us which is the very thing you were hired to do.

Keep Palmer Park together.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 46.

>> Hi, my name is Jonathan Gonzales.

I'm speaking on LGBT Detroit and Palmer Park District as my colleague just mentioned we have the most engagement out of my submission in the entire state yet you continue to divide our map.

Again, you are sending a message and the message is clear that you do not care about the engagement or the participation of LGBT Detroit or the Palmer Park so I'm asking that you keep Palmer Park whole.

That you do not divide that.

And if you need any examples, please refer to map P900 or P467 for the Congressional districts.

And for State Senate please refer to map P1502.

And again for the State House maps please start from scratch.

None of them are a good representation of Detroit or the State of Michigan.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 47.

>> Good afternoon my name is Danielle Steven I'm a retired public servant, native Detroit and member of multiple civic including Delta significant that and Detroit alumni chapter and Detroit Branch NAACP.

I thank you for this opportunity to provide comment again.

But after review of the maps you submitted, I do not believe they best represent the interests of African/American voters and they're about to select other African/Americans to represent them.

A report recently issued by the Michigan State University's institute for public policy and social research concludes that the methodology used by the Commission, quote, breaks apart the geographical compact Black majority in the City of Detroit dispensing them with less compact districts.

That radiate outward from the City of Detroit towards suburban parts Macomb County and Oakland County.

As a result this engineered partial dilution of concentrated Black vote the maps future 0 Black majority districts.

The purpose of the Voting Rights Act was to ensure equity and the ability for African/Americans to fully participate and a state with African/American population of 13.79 percentage there should be some consideration of our community.

We also point out the majority of this percentage resides in Southeast Michigan and in Detroit furthering our argument.

We strongly recommend that the Commission look to the promote the vote maps.

I have my full statement in the portal.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for doing that.

And to clarify we welcome people to also submit their statements into the portal particularly if you feel you don't have time to complete it or just in general because it gives us a written record and you can access that outside the room here there are people there who can assist you or go to the website at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC. And you can submit your comments there as well.

Thank you, number 48.

>> Good afternoon Honorable Commissioner I'm Eddie McDonough and I think I'm your last speaker before we break.

I would just like to say I've been around for a little while.

70 years old.

I've had the opportunity of growing up in Pontiac.

But I have lived in Wayne County, I've lived in other parts of Oakland County and lived in Canton, I've lived in Farmington Hills, I've got a relatives all over Southeast Michigan.

The one thing that I know plain and simple is in all of my living whoever we chose to represent us were part of us from those various communities.

That needs to stay the same.

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When you take a look at some of your maps how do you take an area like Royal Oak Township that is 2400 people about 8 square blocks and split it in half and call that fair? That's not fair.

President Lyndon Johnson once said a person without a vote is a person without protection.

We need to be set up in such a way that folks can represent or will be represented by folks that live, work and play amongst them.

That is what it's about.

We need to move forward with the best maps possible laying out fairness, but more importantly zeroing in on the Voting Rights Act and it's been said over and over again. Do the right thing.

You have the capability of doing so.

We ask that you do it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right good afternoon can I get a map 227 pulled up, please? All right my name is mark Paine I'm a resident of Detroit Michigan, I'm president of the block club and lifelong Detroiter as you make adjustments to the Detroit and Metro area please consider having free breaks and main roads as possible.

Look at the northeast side of the Pine map 227 District as one the District, stops on a side street, Wildamir, District 8, you can do this. And do Dexter to make it organized for the people.

There is also a Google function on my District and see the streets as you make adjustments.

Lastly, I want to grant your attention to a great resource redistricting law 2020.

I learned this book on one of your guests and shows the public has critical and vital information to give.

On Page 58 discusses homogenous analysis and look into it and please use all of the tools available to you like voting patterns and participation and State House and Senate primary elections and to examine the tools for surrounding districts and examine where the African/American population has shifted like Eastpointe and draw accordingly thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Sir what number were you.

>> 49.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay thank you.

All right thank you for addressing the Commission.

50, 51, 52, 53 may approach the podium and 50 feel free to speak when you reach the podium.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Do we have number 50? All right 51.

My name is Chris from West Bloomfield.

First thank you for all the hard work you are doing.

I know with the delayed census data and intense pressure this is a difficult job.

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Thank you for doing your civic duty.

I was a volunteer with Voters Not Politicians.

At different times I held regional field director and outreach and regional education director.

Our team dedicated two years of our lives to end gerrymandering in Michigan and I just want to take a moment to tell you why.

Our politics are how we express our values in society.

And we prioritize the distribution of resources, how we protect our most vulnerable citizens and what kind of world we leave our children.

Too long our representatives in Lansing and our Congressional delegation in Washington do not represent the values that a majority of Michiganders share and organized by party.

This is an unfortunate coincidence.

it's literally how we were organized.

Personally I do not express my values through my City my County or my place of worship.

While they inform my values, the representation of my values politically is expressed through my political party.

For this reason after ensuring that African/American voters are fairly and effectively represented in accordance with the voting rights act you must have fairness between political parties, that is why we did prop two.

Not the funny map shapes or multiple representatives per County City and were symptoms of the problem and giving structural advantage of one party over another and implore you to get it right and bring political fairness to our system, thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 52.

>> Hello.

My name is Steve Walker.

I live in southwest Detroit and I'm a retired political science professor.

I spoke before the Commission when you were here the last time.

I also offered written comments.

I assume you realize by now my wife and I, my wife is floor, my wife and I are advocates for the Latino community.

And I did support proposal two.

I circulated petitions.

I gave donations.

I canvassed in northwest Detroit.

I want to salute the Commission for drawing a Latino House District that is House District number one.

I've worked on reapportionment in the la between no community since 1980.

This is the first time anybody has drawn a Latino District and I salute you for doing that.

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I also can live with the Senate District that you drew.

Number 17.

Concentrates Latinos.

My personal complaint so I beg you to listen is that you're drawing the western boundaries of these districts at Central.

I live two blocks west of Central avenue.

Please, my Latino neighbors and myself want to be in these Latino districts.

Please extend the line west to Lanyo if not to the City limits so we don't want to be in Senate District 19 we want to be in Senate District 17.

At the same time if you're going to add us to the District, please consider taking Melvindale out and putting it in 19, Melvindale 60 percentage Yemeni and they deserve to be with Dearborn and Dearborn Heights.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 53.

>> Hi, good afternoon. My name is Ladie. I'm a resident of Detroit and community advocate I've been working with non-profits and communities of interest across the state.

Educating the public on the redistricting effort and providing technical assistance in the mapping process.

I'm concerned that you're not considering all the facts and data under Voting Rights Act analysis and leading you down a path of disenfranchisement of communities of color despite your best intention.

Look at the ways of politics actually works in Detroit and Flint and not hit a number and cracking Detroit and Flint is not fair and eliminating the Central voices needed in order to address policies at the local level.

Maps with fewer voting rights District that are currently gerrymandered maps are not acceptable and there are currently 17 Voting Rights Acts districts and there are none in your draft.

I want to talk about partisan fairness and communities of interest.

There are several maps that are on the portal that do a great job of balancing both criteria three and four rather than sacrificing one for another.

An example is community of interest LBGT Detroit map the most commented map on the portal promote the vote and AFLCIO state and Senate house maps keep community of interest whole and your maps cut the community of interest in all of your draft maps, all the maps you bring before us today give a disproportionate to one party with minority of the vote on at least three if not all four of the partisan scoring metrics. I urge you to consider alternatives on the portal and must do better for Michigan.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Numbers 54, 55, 56 and 57 can now approach the microphone. And 54 you can begin when you are ready.

>> Thank you.

I'm Deborah Bloomfield from Wyandotte.

And I'm not representing anybody in particular.

I'm an active person in the community.

But what I see is that all of the suggestions that were made, I went to the town hall meeting in River Rouge and there was such a great emphasis at that meeting about the cohesion of Down River.

And as I look at the maps, you're dividing Down River into three areas especially in the Congressional District.

And the State Senate.

So that we want Allen Park, Brownstown, Ecorse, Flat Rock, Gibraltar, Gross Isle, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, River Rouge, Riverview, Rockwood, Southgate, Taylor, Trenton, Wood Haven, Wyandotte and southwest Detroit 48217.

We are the ones that live together, work together, play together.

I'm surprised at how much emphasis there is on electing somebody that looks like me.

Do we have to have a percentage of blonds and red heads and percentage of brunettes? I think what is most important is that we work together, we live together, we recreate together.

And that those are the things that unite us.

We want families.

We want security.

We want good, strong local Governments and we want our local cities to be able to the people from our local cities right in our community to be represented together because that's where the common whether it be the water districts or the sewer districts, those are the things that are in common.

That are even more so.

And so don't divide Down River.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 55.

>> Hello, I want to thank you all for your time here.

I want to start by saying that all the individual and collaborative maps for the State House are identical for the Dearborn, Dearborn Heights area.

All versions of District 15 reduce the voice of Arab American populations in Dearborn Heights and separates us from the south end again making it difficult to collaboratively source state and Federal funding.

To big ticket issues like Ecorse Creek which puts hundreds at risk for flooding. All versions of District nine cut out the south end of Dearborn and segregate a large portion of the Yemeni American community, which is a marginalized group in the Arab American community.

I encourage you to listen closely to the testimony given today via Zoom by those residents who live and work in the south end.

Speaking as respectfully and as candidly as possible we know the lawsuits are coming so why are we compromising on the integrity of this constitutional amendment.

I urge you not to compromise our chance at representation for the sake of numbers.

As you know because of the lack of census representation there is no Federal protections, no Federal Voting Rights Act, no grant funding or research no recognition for Arab Americans and the battle for basic equity will be even harder because all the current maps will restrict the only opportunity to gain legislative representation.

The only avenue we have left for a voice.

I'm frustrated because we are making history at the local level with record numbers of Arabs voting and running for office and done what we are told to do on the table instead we are put at the menus.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Your allotted 90 seconds is up please conclude your statement.

>> P6764 and P6762 which have been collectively drafted by our community thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. .
Number 56.

>> Okay looks like we don't have 56 so 57 if you want to go ahead.

>> Hello, my name is Anthony Watkins.

And I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to share my important comments on the public hearing.

I would like to comment on how the Commission has gone from 17 majority Black districts primarily based in Detroit to 0.

That's a problem.

That is a serious problem.

The Detroit neighborhoods and communities should be drawn together.

Majority Black districts are important.

And we can draw them.

NAACP has drawn them.

Several community groups have drawn them.

Fellow Detroit citizens have drawn them.

But these maps need to be seriously looked at and seriously considered and not just request to be submitted.

So we are aware we can beat this and we are aware that we need to have this done.

Because districts do not have a majority of Blacks.

In large part having elected Black individuals.

Black issues are important.

And led by Black people.

And it's Black people continuously able to lead on these issues.

I thank you.

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Numbers 58, 59, 60 and 61.

>> What number are you sir?

>> 59.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I don't see 58 so go ahead number 59.

>> I'm Percy Johnson, UAW cap chairman, Local 22.

I'm also a member of liberty temple Baptist church.

We were involved with getting the petitions for you guys to be able to have the position that you have today.

And I need you to get me out of the hot seat because right now the encouragement that I gave our voters in Detroit and people who signed the petition and were willing to participate and be in one of your you know we took names of people to also be a Commission in our church and union halls.

And they were encouraged this will give them a chance to have a fair vote to represent their communities.

And we, seriously I got over 8, 900 signatures on our petitions for this to be on the ballot.

And 90% of them were Detroiters.

So please I'm asking you to please give Detroiters a 50% or plus better to represent their vote when they vote.

So to weaken them and give them a weak vote would hurt them.

I'm from Troy but yet I know if I see -- when I see something that is not justly done or unfair, I'm going to speak up for them and represent them.

My heart and soul is in Detroit and Detroit deserves to have fair, good representation and they can't get it if you take away their strength of their vote.

Give them a 51 plus vote.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 60.

>> All right we will move on to 61, 62, 63, 64 and just in case there is in I confusion it's my understanding when people were first arriving that people who were higher than 50 were told we might not get to them.

So I'm keeping track of everyone who is not here so if those people happen to show up at 5:00 you will be given a chance to speak.

So I don't want people to think because they are not here, we won't give you a chance to speed because I know some people were given that guidance what number are you ma'am.

>> 64.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 54.

>> No 64.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 61, 62 or 63.

What number.

>> 62.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We are going to go with 62 and you will get a chance, ma'am.

>> Hi, my name is gabby I live in the City of Southfield Oakland County.

My experience in business is that when you have a deal if everyone is happy you have a good deal.

If nobody is happy you have a fair deal.

However, it seems today that no one is happy and yet we don't seem to have that we have fair maps.

So congratulations on that accomplishment.

Fair maps is all we really want.

We want a map where a candidate can represent themselves to the constituents and when based on the merit of the candidate in that District that was drawn, not one that is predetermined in advance for other reasons.

I'm here today to bring to the committee's attention a small community that is right between Southfield and Oak Park.

It's the orthodox Jewish community.

In some of your maps it's split right in the middle.

And like a green field road is right in the middle of all the Synagogues and the Jewish schools and the entire community.

I would ask that you don't go with those maps or move the line over to Southfield road between 9 mile and 11 mile that would incorporate if you lump that in with Oak Park that will keep us altogether.

Representation for our cause is not simple and when we are split up between several reps it does not get us much and if you mix us in with Wayne County it really weakens our position altogether.

Wayne County has separate stuff they needs to cause the representatives for so I ask that you continue with that.

Thank you for all your hard work.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have number 63.

If not let's go on to 64.

>> My name is Joann Robert son and a citizen of Detroit and lived here all my life I'm offending and objecting to any splitting of community interests or multiple having multiple incumbents in specific districts.

And the elimination of majority Black Congressional and legislative districts.

And I needed to voice that opinion.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 65.

>> Hello, Commissioners, my name is Andrew I'm at the law school and live in Novi and advocating to keep it whole.

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It has the second largest Asian community of any City and Township behind Troy which you basically kept whole in the State House and it's 28 percentage Asian and the number has risen significantly over the decade and projected to grow.

African/American voters which I agree with the folks in the room we need more of and better off there are few communities in Michigan that have large populations of color from different racial backgrounds like Hispanic and Asian community.

I want the Commissioner to consider Novi and Troy has significant Asian population and this community should be kept whole to keep it intact and elect districts that we can select a candidate of choice.

I think the map that has gone the most right direction is the one that is proposed by Commissioner Szetela for the State House.

But it's missing several Novi and precincts out to Livingston County and for Ann for partisan fairness and do not include it with Livingston County and I would take Commissioner Szetela and swap precincts in Livingston Township for remaining in Novi it does not deserve to be split three ways and have much with Livingston County border and increases the Asian share of population and fits within the population deviation I did double check.

Thank you for your time and being here to take comments.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. At this time I'll call up 66, 67, 68 and 69 and 66 as soon as you reach the microphone you can start speaking.

>> Good afternoon my name is Reno, 892 out of Saline Michigan and asking the Commission to withdraw the maps so it's fair for democrats and republicans the entire purpose of the independent redistrict Commission is making things fair. And their work is not complete until they have maps that are fair across the board. I'm also asking for the Ypsilanti centric districts Ypsilanti voters should not have their voices silenced by getting packed into the shadow of Ann Arbor. It's okay if they have Ypsilanti and only a portion of Ann Arbor share districts. But they should not have Ypsilanti and all of Ann Arbor packed together.

This is because Ypsilanti is a major population centered with different demographics than Ann Arbor.

Some newer maps made the split and hope they will follow through. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 67.

>> Hello, my name is Yancey and representing 892 and concerned how you sliced Detroit into thin strips and put with heavy white areas in the suburban.

The democratic Commissioners and in particular need to stay strong and veto any unfair maps until we get fairness.

And under 13 Commissioners should approve any maps that has a boundless advantage to a particular party.

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All of the maps so far have been approved by democrats of the Commission and all of them favor the republic party.

Where is the fairness in that? The fairness is a priority above all local boundaries and compactness.

Do not be afraid to unpack the City.

And by doing so it may make a weird shape in the map but that is okay.

What is not okay if the map does not represent Michigan, it's important Detroit be able to elect its own representative and I'm not sure your maps warrant that.

I believe Detroiters should be represented by Detroiters who understand their concerns.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 68 or 69. Do we have number 70, 71, 72 or 73? If you could just let me know your number, ma'am.

73 thank you.

>> Hi, I'm Sherri from Livingston County and while as I listen to the people speaking here today, I realize I don't have as much on the line as many of them.

So I'm hoping that you all take it to heart and listen to what these people are saying.

As a member of the League of Women Voters, I was very strong support of the independent redistricting committee.

And my -- I do live in a currently horribly gerrymandered District that has taken away my voice and my community.

And although the maps are significantly better than they were, they are still skewed in the U.S. Congress and the Senate to favor the GOP by 5-8%.

That's not good enough.

We want fair maps.

The partisan fairness is one of the criteria in the Michigan Constitution.

And I hope you all take that to heart.

Basic principle is that the party that receives the most votes statewide should receive the most seats in the Michigan legislature.

I would urge you to look again at the AFLCIO and the one fair vote maps.

And I'm requesting that you please make partisan fairness a priority in your map.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. A call for 70, 71 and 72 what number are you ma'am?

>> 74.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead.

>> My name is Ethyl.

I'm a resident of White Lake Michigan in northern Oakland County.

I want to mention that I appreciate the work you're doing.

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However I want to point out one thing that you are already working with old data with the census and keep in mind that things are changing mainly due to the pandemic.

I want to mention that you have three bad maps with regard to Congressional districts apple Juniper are extremely bad maps for District ten.

I live in White Lake and there is nothing in common with Counties along Lake Huron, going all the way up to the thumb, all the way to port Austin.

None of these areas have anything to do with northern northwest Oakland County.

I would like to suggest that Maple, number 219 also has the same bad districts.

I call your attention to Birch map number 230 that allows the County lines to be more succinct and together.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Numbers 75, 76, 77 or 78.

>> Hello again I want to comment you on the job you have attempted to do. A couple things that I will say now have already been stated.

The first would but I am out of local 600 retired, I sit on the executive board at the region or 45,000 retirees.

The major problem that we have is in the Down River area.

I'm out of Wyandotte and Lincoln Park would like to come back in and you can take Gibraltar in another District.

That would be one problem.

The second problem is the City of Dearborn and the other gentleman has mentioned that and I will not reiterate what he already said.

The next problem is a very, very serious problem.

You have to do something my union brothers and sisters of the African/American community to straighten out that situation.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have number 76, 77 or 78? 79, 78 go ahead, sir.

>> My name is Joseph per son I'm the Chair of the Oakland County democratic Black caucus.

My problem that I have with this is that I'm a military man.

I spent decades protecting y'all rights whether it's a democrat or republican or independent and I didn't give a damn what party you belonged to because when I went to soldier for y'all I soldier for y'all.

I'm a true patriot.

You have an opportunity to step to the table and do right by us.

I live in Southfield. Lathrop Village, Oak Park, and Royal Oak Township and Pontiac all have one thing in common, we all have 58% or better of African/Americans.

And we are tired of somebody making a decision for us.

Now the history of this country is that when it comes to other people that don't look like me it usually doesn't come out good for me.

That's the truth.

I'm here as a man that fought and killed for y'all.

I need y'all to do right by me and my people.

And Detroit deserves better, Southfield deserves better and all of us Black folk need to be spoken for by Black people who look like me.

Jim crow whether you look at it now Jim crow they were lynching us with ropes in the 21st century you folks have moved to a high tech lynching called drawing these maps.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 79, 80, 81 or 82 if you could just let me know your number ma'am that would be helpful.

>> I'm number 81.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: You can go ahead.

>> Good afternoon I'm Susan Nash I'm a citizen of Livonia and the City Clark.

First, I want to thank you for your work on this.

I know how hard it is you have been going through all this.

As a clerk I'm going to address something that really isn't being brought up here with the lines.

When I look at the Livonia lines, I see neighborhoods being cut up.

I see confusion.

I see voter confusion.

And that is not something I ever want to see in any District or any voter confusion.

When you take a situation like you have on the east side of Livonia that is split up into two districts going through Redford and Detroit, there will be though solid representation for anyone of those communities.

If the representative is elected out of Detroit, they will not look at Redford or Livonia or Redford they will not look at Detroit or Livonia or Livonia they will not look at Redford and Detroit.

Keep communities of interest.

Draw straight lines.

Keep neighborhoods together.

For Livonia when you have down in the 34s you split it up.

So you could have one person living on one side of a street be different than someone on the other side of the street.

There is voter confusion.

That will suppress votes.

That is going to cause people to do I don't know what I'm supposed to do and will not vote.

My goal is to get citizens out to vote.

My goal is for citizens to understand when they go out.

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And I want people to feel confident when they go out.

This map does not do that.

This map when I look around this room when I got here earlier today it was a beautiful representation of Metro Detroit.

Okay and everyone here had the same feeling they are not happy with the map.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. What number are you?

>> 80.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead map.

>> My name is Mona and first off, I want to thank the Commission for your service and the long hours of sacrifice that you have put forward for us.

Having volunteered for the effort to pass prop two it's a thrill to be here today to encourage you to right the wrongs of partisan gerrymandering that have crippled the democratic process in our state for the last ten years.

As a volunteer for Voters Not Politicians I met voters of both parties who supported partisan fairness when drawing the District lines.

This was really inspiring.

However your maps continue to represent a republican advantage in a state where the majority votes democratic.

And we continue to see democratic republican victories despite winning fewer statewide votes than democrats.

I quote a Detroit news Article dated November 20, 2018.

Despite a 52-47 percentage edge for democrats the GOP won more seats and will enjoy a 58-51 advantage in the house.

The same goes for the Senate.

Democrats also won more votes in the Senate race 50-48 percentage for democrats but the GOP held a 22-16 majority.

This cannot be healthy.

Please continue to improve the partisan balance of districts particularly in the southern portion of the Lower Peninsula while maintaining majority minority districts and uphold the promise made by the passage of prop two.

Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 82, 83, 84 and 85 if you could please let me know the number.

>> 85.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead.

>> My name is Bob Sissler, Chair of UAW region 1A retirees.

We represent about 45,000 retirees, not all of them in the Detroit and in Michigan but some out of state but we do have enough here.

What we are looking for is a fair representation of the maps that are drawn.

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This is not the case I also belong to the Jefferson Chalmers advocates and the people who are suffering because we do not have proper representation in Lansing. Although we are majority, we are not getting a fair shake on a number of things. Whether we talk about the inter structure and see what happens in Lansing with their water pipes being replaced but down here in Detroit we are suffering with sewer water. There is a problem in this state because we do not have representation.

I have a place up north, those roads are perfect.

Lansing they are perfect.

Come here what do you have to do? Not only watch out for the other guy but watch out to The Street because you may cave in.

We need equity when it comes to representation.

Do you know what the word equity means? It means not equality.

It means that there should be a fair shake for everyone and we are not getting it whether it's in the school system or in other places.

So please give us justice for all, may God rest with you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 82, 83, 84 or 86, 87, 88.

87.

>> Good afternoon I'm Jocelyn Harris.

A proud resident of the City of Detroit born and raised here in the Black bottom.

Fact is I also served in Detroit public schools and retired from the department of corrections.

I come because I applaud you for your process.

This process does allow the voice of the people to be heard.

But I'm more -- it's more important to me we just not be heard but that we get the outcome that the people have spoken to.

It's been very, very clear that the people are not satisfied with the map as it has been drawn.

It's more people as the people we have been doing all over and Jeff Chalmers we come up with our own solutions.

The novice have drawn maps, professionals have drawn maps so your homework is very simple, I'm a teacher by trade.

Just take in consideration the work that has gone into drawing fair maps.

I notice you are all very attentive and I pray that you are accountable to the will of the people.

So when you go back and you cuddle together, I know that you will not be able to not see the faces of the people and hear their voices and draw the maps accordingly.

Best to you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Sir what is your number.

>> I'm number 88.

And my name is Richard Clement.

I was a census U numerator state employed teacher currently working for the office of Cynthia A Johnson.

As far as this process goes I kind of like proposal two because it lets the people speak and it's like being retired Referee nobody is going to really be happy, okay you got to make a decision, you got to do something and we got to have these maps by the first of the year.

And personally when I was enumerating southwest Detroit, I would like to count the dogs and people and number of dogs they sicked on me as an enumerated and glad they didn't get counted anyway.

Anyway I think the process needs a little bit more tweaking.

This is what we ask for.

What we voted for.

And I'm so glad that people we got the partisanship out of this whole thing, okay?

Because we will get fairer maps and we need to tweak it a little bit more out of the who process some good will come out of it, some real good will come out of it because you took the crazy gerrymandering and toned it down and have to refine the process to represent people of Detroit because the last ten years, we got an emergency managers and all kind of foul policy towards Detroit.

I hope this process can correct it.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 89, 90, 91 and 92 I think most of the upper numbers have not stuck around because they didn't think we were going to get them and we are due for a recess at this time anyway.

By show of hands can we see what numbers are people waiting like how many? So just a handful.

Let's go ahead and finish off these five people before we break.

So ma'am in the gray if you want to come up and let me know your number.

>> Good afternoon, everyone.

My name is Charmaine. I'm number 94 retired UAW local 900.

I was a supervisor for the census and I want to say because the minority got out to vote it scared a lot of people.

And that's what the gerrymandering is about so they can control the vote and control the funding.

So when you go back to sit down and do your maps, please think of us that is all I ask, God bless you and do what is right.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Sir if you want to go ahead, please tell me your number.

>> I'm number 95 and I'm a republican and did not vote for proposal two but people of the state did and it's the law of the land and a process that has to go forward and so I commend you for doing work but your work needs work and the one thing you failed to do or at least not at the start but as you got going and sort of listened to your experts first of all Voting Rights Act expert I think I would fire your first order of business after these hearings should be to fire the voting rights expert because he has it dead wrong that is why this community here is dissected as bad as. It has been smashed like a toothpaste tube all over southeast Michigan and I think that is wrong.

But you stopped looking at people and stopped looking at communities and started looked at numbers on a spreadsheet. And all you wanted to do is come up with numbers on the spreadsheet. From the partisan fairness you are. And you couldn't have over 40% African/American in any District, so on and so forth. And then you started dividing things up. And I just want to point out District 15 on the State House map, which begins Schoolcraft and Greenfield in Detroit, an area I grew up very close to. And goes through Oak Park, Berkley, Southfield Township, Bloomfield Township and Birmingham and ends at Long Pine and Loser.

Schoolcraft and Greenfield have very little, if nothing in common with Long Pine and Loser, so get back to work and understand politics.

I know you were not supposed to be involved, and it's clear you weren't. So get back to work and draw fair districts and draw African/American districts. It needs to be done.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Sir. If you would like to go ahead and speak and let me know what number you are as well, that will be helpful.

>> Hi. Excuse me. My name is Bruce.
My number is 101.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can't hear you it's okay to take your mask off while speaking in the microphone.

>> With the mask.
How you doing my name is Bruce I want to thank the Commission for letting me speak today and I'm blind and I see clearly what is going on with redistrict.
And y'all can see but y'all are blind.

My parents came here from Georgia and Tennessee.

I represent Detroit and northwest area.

And I'm going to speak for the kids that don't have a vote that we are supposed to represent they are our future and for y'all to have districts where I'm not represented by my color and my community, I hope y'all do the right thing and represent the minorities and people of Detroit and the people of my District to represent me and the kids who can't speak for themselves.

I am grateful to see everybody coming out to let you all know how we feel about Districting stuff here.

Please do the right thing, represent people of color, the handicapped who can't see the maps.

I don't know what the map looks like but I know it's not right, it's not fair when you go there think of me.

And the districts and people disabled people who can't speak for themselves and the kids.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: What number were you? Do you know what number he was? Just so I can cross it off.

>> I was 101.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you so it looks like we have two more people then we will take a break sir if you want to go ahead.

>> We will take you over here after he speaks then we need to take a break. And again if you could tell me your number that would be very helpful.

>> 117 my name is Angelo Brown I'm a write in candidate for mayor of Detroit. And I thank you for the opportunity to be here and I also thank you for the hard work that you're doing and I hope you hear the hearts of the people, the people want representation for their taxation.

You know our country has the growing foundation on fairness.

And the thing I love about this country we have the ability to change, make adjustments. The people have spoken so I just hope you hear and I pray for you.

And that we can get this thing done because we don't want to put the people in chains. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. And then our last speaker for right now go ahead what number are you.

>> 98.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 98 go ahead.

>> My name is Laura and I first want to thank the Commissioners for the opportunity to address you all today especially over time.

I currently live on Holm Street in Hamtramck, Michigan and previously lived in Ann Arbor where I got my under grad degree at the University of Michigan. Go blue.

I'm here today because I'm an education and racial justice voter and care deeply about increasing Asian American civic engagement across the State of Michigan.

I believe that voters should elect their leaders not the other way around and believe my community needs reflective and responsive leadership to direct more resources so our communities in culturally competent ways.

Partisan fairness and preservation of communities of interest are not mutually exclusive priority promote the vote and fair maps project do both.

In all three proposed House District Pine Peach and oak House District 2 has cracked out randomly a small corner of the Asian American community of interest.

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From Kashmir in the northeast down to Alpena and Belmont in the southeast and west should be included in house District two and instead of where it's now in house District ten.

Cracking this corner dilutes our ability to elect responsive leadership.

We are ideally concerned about the dilution of the Black vote in many of the House Districts.

As Asian Americans we believe our fate is tied up with those of other communities of color in the state and believe creating a VRA District for the Black voting age population below 40% is unacceptable. A typical primary election in Detroit and Flint has multiple candidates of color. And we would prefer you don't do that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. All right so just for our online viewers who are watching we are going to take a recess right now and we will be back at 5:00 but so let you know we have 45 more people who are signed up to comment online.

And then we will get to the online individuals after that assuming we have don't have more people sign up which may be likely.

So I would say for the people who are online at a minimum it will take us one hour to get through those additional 45 in person commentators so I would estimate being available around 6:00 if you want to benchmark it like that.

All right without objection we will recess for we will recess until 5:00 so that is an hour and 20 minutes.

Hearing no objections we will stand in recess until 5:00 p.m. thank you very much everybody.

[Recess]

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Test one two, test one two.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Sarah are we ready? As Chair of the Commission I call this meeting of the www.Michigan.gov/MICRC Redistricting Commission back to order at 5:08 p.m.

For the purposes of the public watching and for the public record I will turn to the Department of State staff to take note of the Commissioners present.

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

Please say present which I call your name.

If you are attending tonight's hearing remotely, please announce during roll call you are attending remotely and disclose your physical location I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

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>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present from Reed City, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present; attending remotely from Battle Creek, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> VICE COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: 12 Commissioners are present.

And there is a quorum.

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

Without objection our host Commissioner Brittini Kellom will now provide a presentation.

Hearing no objection please proceed Ms. Kellom.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Good evening, everyone.

Good evening.

It's a pleasure to do the welcome again of a native Detroiter as a Commissioner and so on behalf of the MICRC thanks so much for joining us today and if you have been here thank you so much for powering through and continuing to be with us for this hearing in Detroit at TCF.

We need you to show up and speak to us about the draw about drawing fair maps.

In 2018 Michigan voters by more than a percent empowered citizens not legislatures to draw fair maps.

Consequently the MICRC represents an initiative by Michigan residents and not liberals moderates or conservatives.

Voters made an intentional and deliberate effort to form the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission by filling in the yes oval on proposal 2018-2.

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Every ten years following the U.S. census District lines for U.S. Congressional, State House and State Senate must be redrawn in states across the country to accurately reflect their population.

The process of drawing District lines is known as redistricting.

In Michigan there are 161 Congressional, State Senate and State House districts that need to be drawn for the 2022 election cycle.

For the first time in Michigan's history residents have an opportunity to provide input on drawing maps for Michigan's Congressional, house and Senate districts.

Openness, transparency, and public engagement represent the principles of this new redistricting process.

Now you all have an opportunity to ensure your voice and your community's voice is heard.

Instead of politicians choosing their districts to best represent their interests, Michigan residents can share their interests to assist in developing their districts through the Michigan independent sit vents Redistricting Commission.

We need your assistance to help us draw fair maps.

Please we will have our Executive Director Suann Hammersmith continue with her presentation.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Good evening and thank you everyone for being here with us.

We appreciate you showing up, speaking up and sharing your comments with the Commission.

The Constitution is very clear about the purpose of this second round of public hearings. Per the Constitution this Commission is here to solicit public comments about the proposed 161 districts.

This includes 13 Congressional districts, 38 State Senate districts and 110 State House districts.

Each proposed plan includes census data, a map, and a legal description and you can view all this information on our website www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.

Also the Constitution requires that this Commission hold five public hearings.

This is our first of five.

We will be in Lansing tomorrow, Grand Rapids on Friday.

And in Gaylord and Flint next week.

So thank you again for joining us.

There are 20 proposed draft maps on the website.

Ten were drawn in a collaborative process in open meetings the entire Commission working together to draw these maps.

They have produced four Congressional, three State Senate and three State House maps for consideration.

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And in addition the Commissioners could draw individual maps so there are also ten individual maps for Congressional we received maps from Commissioners Clark, Eid, Lange and Szetela.

For the State Senate Commissioners Eid, Lange and Szetela submitted maps and for the State House maps were submitted from Commissioners Clark, Orton and Szetela.

The redistricting criteria are very clear in the Constitution.

They are listed in rank order.

Meaning the first, the VRA compliance and Voting Rights Act have to be adhered to and there has to also be equal population.

You may notice some of these maps are not quite equal population and there will be some shifting of lines as the Commissioners continue to deliberate after they have heard from the public comments.

Maps also have to be...have geographically contiguous reflect the state's diversity and communities of interest.

There cannot be a disproportionate advantage to a political party or to an incumbent elected official or a candidate.

They should reflect consideration of County, City and Township boundaries, that is the sixth criteria.

And 7th they have to be reasonably compact.

So pretty tall order of ranked criteria for this Commission to work with.

There is a process for adopting the maps also laid out in the Constitution, which states after the public hearings the Commission shall follow the procedure in adopting a plan for Congressional, State Senate and State House.

So before they can vote to adopt a plan, they have to ensure that the plan is compliant with the constitutional criteria using appropriate technology.

During October 27th to November 5th the Commission will take the comments they have heard and they will go through deliberations where they begin to draft proposed maps that will be approved to be published.

We anticipate the publishing will take place by November 14th and then there will be 45 days of public comment again for individuals to provide their input.

A final decision on the redistricting plan is scheduled for December 30th.

And those maps require that two Commissioners from each of the major parties vote to approve those maps as well as two Commissioners who don't affiliate with either party and we will also require a majority vote.

Lastly, the Constitution states that the Michigan Supreme Court has the original jurisdiction for these maps.

And can review at its discretion any challenges to the maps that have been adopted by the Commission.

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If any plan fails to comply with the constitutional criteria, they can remand to this Commission that they go back and make maps that do comply with the constitutional criteria.

And this Commission is the only body that can create and adopt Michigan's Congressional, State Senate, and State House maps.

Next, I would like to turn the program over to General Counsel Julianne Pastula.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much Executive Director Hammersmith.

I'm Julianne Pastula General Counsel for the Commission.

And I'd like to briefly outline the public hearing guidelines.

The time limit for each public comment speaker is one minute 30 seconds.

Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

The timer will not begin until you start speaking.

And you may not yield your time to another speaker.

In person public comments will take place first followed by remote public comments.

And I would like to also indicate for all comments shall be directed to the Commission as a whole.

And speakers are requested to indicate which map they are speaking about.

The Senate house or Congressional.

If you are speaking about a specific map.

And if you are referenced a specific map on your public comment card, time will be allowed for the mapping firm to display the map on the screens that are around the room.

The Chairperson may warn any person or curtail for being germane or redundancy within your comment, speaking more than allotted time or failure to address remarks to the Commission or if any person disrupts the orderly progress of the meeting or refuses to apply with MICRC rules the Chair they order out of order or removal from the meeting.

Please provide your public comment and submit your proposed maps in the public comment portal available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.

Thank you so much for being here and it's wonderful to be in Detroit and hear from everyone in this room.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you everyone.

Without objection we are going to begin our public comment portion of our meeting.

Hearing no objection we will now proceed with public comments individuals who signed up and indicated they would like to provide in person commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so.

Please step to the microphone when I call your number.

We in the earlier meeting actually progressed a little bit further on our list than we thought we were going to so I would ask that anybody who has a number below 86 and

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has not spoken please go ahead and approach the microphone and you can have your turn to speak now.

If you could please indicate your number when you are speaking that will be very helpful, thank you.

Below 86.

Go ahead, ma'am.

>> I'm number 84 hello and good evening my name is Matte and in Plymouth County and I'm here to assert the City of Detroit deserves to be perceived and respected as a community of interest.

I heard this exact sentiment among family members colleagues and friends who live in Detroit for several years.

It's the largest City in Michigan.

And a prominent City in America, the diversity present amongst the City establishing the citizens need to be represented by people who look like them experience the same matters as them, live like them and so on and so forth.

This variation in community not only leads to a difference in interest but a difference in problems that impact their everyday lives.

The people of Detroit rightfully deserve to elect and choose their own representatives that understand each area specific struggles because of this reason.

As I've seen with your maps it seems your version of the Voting Rights Act strays from the true purpose and meaning and racial equity and partisan in 2021 has to be given and drawn.

You all are capable of achieving this feat.

Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Go ahead ma'am and could you please state your number.

>> My name is Nancy.

I do want to say first I appreciate the hard work that you all are doing.

I know it's not easy and know we will end up with a stronger democracy.

I'm in east English village a racially integrated community and a strong community we worked together for decades and many of us put together maps where we showed our community of interest.

We also show that we want to but, be, united with cornerstone because we worked together with neighborhood improvement.

As we look at the maps you have done, the Elm map looks great because it keeps us together all three communities, we appreciate that.

Along with river front.

The cherry map is horrible for us and separates us into two districts with another District slicing down in between and I really hope you don't end up doing that.

For State House districts, they all respect east English village as a neighborhood but they chop up morning side into three pieces and I hope you will revisit that because they all do it and put morning side back together and hopefully united with us to make it easier for us to work together.

And as for Congress I'm so glad those maps are not gerrymandered.

And I just hope that we don't go so far from packing all Blacks to one District we don't have enough Black representation.

So thank you very much.

Again I appreciate it.

I have a map.

Can I hand this to you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, you can hand it to our General Counsel and can you say what number you were.

>> Sorry.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: What number were you?

>> I'm 58.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 58, thank you sir go ahead.

>> Hello, my name is Nick O'Keefe I live in Detroit.

The volume of maps put forth by the Commission is untenable and useless to focus on the maps and the collaborative are worse based on the standards of the Constitution. I'm here because in the last ten years 45 got% and 55% of seats in Lansing repeatedly every two years.

That is why I voted on prop two to bring democracy after decades of the party in power drawing maps to keep them in power.

There are few very quantifiable metrics to adhere to but efficiency gap needs to be primary the low efficiency gap is the best metric how well you have done your job and best metric to prove our districts are not unfairly gerrymandered and look at quantifiable metric above the efficiency gap because without low efficiency gap we don't have a democracy.

Y'all have said Michigan is a 50/50 state. And if your maps reflect even that, we have made incredible progress.

Additionally, y'all really have majority minority districts where white folks are the largest voting bloc.

You have majority minority districts that are 49 percentage white.

Communities of interest need to be able to elect candidates of choice. And white folks are the largest voting bloc in our majority minority districts in the Blackest City in America we have a problem.

I appreciate the lack of packing but this is crap and will whitewash Lansing even further. Get these white districts up to 50% Black, no higher than 60 to avoid packing while keeping the efficiency gap low and your job is done. Thank you.

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Sir, and could you let me know your number.

>> Yes, my number is 56.

My name is Michael Wise. I live in Commerce Township, Oakland County. I'm here to advocate for the fair redistricting maps and make sure the Commission creates a level playing field that does not benefit either political party.

The proposed maps lean from 5-8% to the right giving republicans an unfair advantage. The new maps are a slight improvement over 2011 intentional gerrymandering. The maps also fall short in protecting the voices of communities of color.

The new maps must ensure the diverse population is heard and want to see more minority voices elected to serve in Lansing and Washington not fewer.

The Commission needs to prioritize partisan fairness I'm told the maps are good enough but still are not fair.

The party that win the most votes statewide should win the most seats.

The maps do not do that.

The Commissioner's fairness expert doctor Hadley said election results show Michigan is a lean democratic state why do all the maps lean republican.

I've been Michigan broker and appraiser for over 45 years and appraised all over the State of Michigan.

I'm more informed than the average person of demographic differences and similarities that makeup the maps and unfairly benefit and AFL fair maps project and promote the map projects are examples of what fair maps could look like for Michigan.

There are many ways to draw fair maps.

The Commissioner needs to keep working and get it right.

Thank you for all you're doing.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Ma'am, go ahead.

>> Number 50.

Jill Adams.

In regard to the Maple Congressional map, I thank you for respecting the community of interest along the border.

And for realizing the unique issues the border Counties face on a daily basis including lives in a County that the media market is centered in another state.

No hearing no location close to us and speaking like my do and many expressed the opinions on the portal but could not make the drive today.

I also want to support the Elm Senate draft map linking Monroe and Lenawee as the communities are tied closely through many organizations including state Government emergency responding unions media as well as many community projects.

I hope you will also consider the communities that each of you live in.

I think you will agree our communities are essential in our daily lives and we collaborate with those we live near and utilize services that are in close proximity to us.

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We work alongside those who make up our community.

Our kids go to school together.

We know the dentist the pastor and the farmer.

Our actual physical place on this planet is what a community is all about.

Some communities are diverse, some are similar, but they are all unique.

They should not be chopped up to make them quote unquote equal.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Just a reminder we are anybody who has a number less than 86 we are asking to get in line so we can move through those groups that we called earlier.

Sir if you want to go ahead.

If you could let me know your number that would be helpful.

>> My number is 86.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right fantastic.

>> I'm Jonathan.

I'm a resident of the City of Detroit.

I'm a Wayne County Commissioner.

I'm a lifelong resident of the State of Michigan.

When we the citizens of the State of Michigan voted to empanel this body, we expected it to, one, respect the will of the people.

When we say respect the will of the people respect the will of precedence.

And unfortunately because of wrong advice that you have received as relates to interpretation as relates to the voters rights act, you have created a District that none of us imagined who support it empaneling this body to draw these districts and would have thought would come into existence.

I'm asking you to recognize the advancements that the Black people have made in our ability to be elected into public office.

Specifically the state legislature.

If these maps move forward, you have a potentially a circumstance where you have created unintentional consequences from these maps where you would have the least amount of elected Black officials in the history of this state.

Detroit deserves to have representation that is reflective of its will.

You have -- you have before you, one moment.

You have, one more second, sorry about that.

You have before you I submitted on behalf of the 13 Congressional districts a map for you to consider that brings into the consideration of Black voices and making sure that Detroit has proper representation.

That's map number 6674.

And then AFLCIO has also submitted maps for you to consider as a benchmark to accomplish what the will of the people in Detroit is and that is map number 3624 thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Ma'am, if you could let me know your number.

>> Hi, my number is 60.

I represent the Hispanic community of Detroit.

I wanted to say I strongly support all the maps that the Commission has created.

All the Congress Senate and house maps keep the Hispanic community of southwest Detroit together.

This is how it should be.

And please do not change our districts.

Thank you, Commissioners.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Ma'am.

>> Hi, I was just here to let you know that I'm representing my community in midtown and throughout the east and the west side.

I represent Detroit period.

My father was one of the first Black brick Masons for the City of Detroit.

And I represented as well with the Detroit water and sewage was present for the takeover of that.

Elected to the pension board after bankruptcy.

Would you break the chains of whatever you are coming on.

We don't need unless you are allowing us, well, just give us our opportunity to not change the voting, the Districting.

Where is it leading us to? I'm just curious.

Why you know we don't want it.

You probably don't want it.

So go back and tell somebody that sent you here we don't want it.

We know who you are as well.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Ma'am.

>> Yeah, hi number 61.

And my name is Paula and I'm speaking for the Hispanic community in Detroit.

I wanted to you know mention I highly support the current maps that are created for the southwest Detroit area.

Kept the Congressional, Senate and house maps and keeps people together in southwest Detroit and that is the way it should be.

And I support that.

So let's not change our District.

Thank you, Commissioners.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Ma'am?

>> Good afternoon, Commissioners.

I'm number 76 my name is Sade I'm a Commissioner with the Black leadership advising Council and I'm here to bring to your attention the voice of my constituents in my community.

My community is Black and immigrant and lives in Detroit and my community is not really happy about the job that was done in the map that we have submitted.

We submitted P4813, 4816, 4817 and I'm here to urge you to not rely only on your map alone but to look at other map being drawn for example from a devote it makes more sense to me of the voices of our communities of interest and partisan fairness.

The house map that we are considering right now is fair and I would like to draw your attention because for our community of interest in Detroit for example, our community was cut in three.

So the Black immigrants represent almost nobody.

We don't have no voice.

We don't have no representation.

We are underrepresented in anything and our community have a very hard time accessing or navigating resources.

On top of that if you agree to piecemeal us in different communities, we are not going to be...have any representation as we never had any.

So having that I want to really call on to the idea of fairness and fairness representation. Because we really believed in your possibility to create something that can represent us and we can see ourselves in to.

Right now the way we are seeing it is not doing the job.

So please get the job done for us.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> My number is 70.

I'm a professor at Wayne state University and also cochairman of the Detroit City Council immigration task force. Over the last year I'm working with a number of the minority ethnic communities in particular and the Latino, the Arab and Bengali and Native American and say a few words about the maps you created.

Overall however you address the issue that has been brought up here today by the constituents by residents of the state, I would like to commend you for keeping most of the minority ethnic communities together.

The Latino community the southwest Detroit area currently is split into two or three districts.

You kept them into one and I commend you on that.

For the Arab community they are primarily in the Senate District 19 which is commendable.

And for Congressional District two as well.

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For the Arab community though Dearborn, Dearborn Heights are split into three and it's much preferable if they could be kept in two separate districts.

For Bengali community the Senate maps do justice to the community extending from Hamtramck to Warren and that should be kept that way.

The Senate maps as well except for Senate map Juniper218 and cuts off at 8 mile that map we don't like. For the house maps the eastern part of District 2 is split up into District 10.

There are lots of Bengalis who live in the area and I would like to see it made whole in the area.

Finally Native American, if I could just finish quickly, for both the house and the Senate maps, you have split the Sault St. Marie tribe and the Bay Mills area tribes into two right across the border.

They are adjacent Native American communities and they should be kept together for the house and Senate maps in the Upper Peninsula. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> Good evening. My name is Carl Senior.

I'm number 83.

And I'm just an ordinary citizen in the City of Detroit.

I'm a retired firefighter.

I worked as an emergency medical technician and spent 28 years serving the City.

And I'm really outraged at the way these maps are breaking up the north end and eliminating the political power of the people in the City of Detroit.

After college my wife and I got married and decided to move to Detroit.

We chose to live in the north end.

Our parents moved from Mississippi and Oklahoma to get away from Jim crow to get away from areas they had no political power.

And these maps eliminate power, they take away the power of minorities, the Black folks, Native Americans and everybody else in these districts in our City.

I think it's unfair and I think we should work harder at that.

I saw one of your spokespersons on TV last night.

That is what convinced me to come here.

He said we have angered both the democrats and republicans.

We must be doing something right.

That's not what I get from that.

If you anger everybody you must be doing something wrong.

As a paramedic I was taught if you don't know what to do, at least do no harm.

These maps are harmful and take away power.

They disrupt.

They divide.

It's unfair.

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So let me read my sign to you leave the north end alone.

Put the north end back together.

Keep it intact.

Boston Edison, Hamtramck, Highland Park east side of Detroit, Senate District 2 now includes even the Grosse Pointe areas.

Don't immigrate us to negate us and leave Black districts intact.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> I'm 109.

I just want to say that I've got some friends that are racist.

My name is Cindy.

I live in Detroit.

Since 67.

But I love the ethnic diversity of the Metro Detroit.

And I think that we should build on that.

And make sure that we have representatives from every ethnic group and I think by the way you see my button here it says of course it hurts.

You're being screwed by an elephant.

So I think this is a hard type thing to do.

What I was thinking could you just go and take the map, try and get where you don't have the democrats getting the most votes and yet they got the last representation, start out there.

Then go and try and fit the areas of interest and adjust it.

I think it's like a simultaneous equation and I can't remember how to do them from 8th grade Algebra but it is a difficult task.

However approval voting where you can vote for as many people as you want would encourage the development of third parties and also encouragement of more people to get involved in politics.

And I think you need that.

Maybe proportional representation so you don't have to keep drawing these lines every ten years and people don't know which line they are within.

That would be another idea you could look in to for the next ten years.

But I don't think that this is going to solve our political problems at all.

We don't know what our minutes are because they don't take them in our City Council.

You got to look at the videos to see what they did.

And things like that, if they have a Zoom meeting, they should have Zoom meetings.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Ma'am your 90 seconds are up.

>> Get the transcripts from the Zoom meetings and put them up immediately as unofficial minutes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Ma'am please respect that we have many people who want to speak tonight so please respect the time limits.

Thank you.

So do we have anyone else who is 86 or below who needs to speak? Sir, are you 86 or below? Okay, so if you just want to have a seat, we are going to pick up with 89.

Anybody else 86 or below? Ma'am are you less than 86?

>> No I'm 106.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: If you could just have is a seat, we will pick up calling numbers off again and trying to get people whose numbers that were called earlier who were not here we will pick up with number 89 where we left off, 89, 90, 91 and 92, you can approach the microphone. And number 89 when you reach the microphone you can begin speaking. In general I'm going to call people up in groups of four to make the process go a little quicker. So 89, 90, 91 and 92.

Yes.

What number are you, sir?

>> I'm 92.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Do we have 89 or 90? 91, ma'am, you're 91, go ahead.

>> 91.

I just want to say this looks and smells more like another snake and takeover of Black political power.

People of color, communities are tired of being most neglected and disrespected.

I'd like to kill the whole program.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 92.

>> Thank you.

I'm from Bangladesh public affairs committee I'm the chairman and we have an office in Hamtramck on the corner avenue.

I'm here to speak about Bangladeshi community in general and thank the Commission for doing an excellent job.

This is way better than what we had in the past.

So first Michigan State Senate we are happy with majority of the map that you have.

For Congressional District, we are good with that.

We are only concern we have is the state rep map.

We are between District 10 and District 2.

Our community has been split up right in the middle.

And we urge you please take a look at it again.

I understand the reason it was done the way it was done because of the census tract but if you are talking about community of interest and you are here to define the community, I think this is our chance to do it in a way that the intentions are.

So I have a map that I would like to share with you.

If you could there are some pockets, there are three pockets in District 10 that could go into District 2.

And we have looked at the number, the census number.

And it shows the 25% of the Asian community.

And also if you look at the count of District 10, they are over like 97,000 or so.

So this would be a good fit.

I would like to give that map to -- who do I give this to?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: You can approach and give it to our General Counsel.

Thank you for addressing the Commission. So 93, 96, 97 and 99 do we have 93, 96, 97 or 99?

>> 99.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead, ma'am.

>> Good evening, Commissioners my name is Dim and called Michigan home for the last five years and originally born in Burma where people fight every day the way we fight for community of interest.

When we first called Oklahoma home and I moved to Michigan and I experienced a community of people who worked hard and fought and I was born in an Asian working family and the worst effects of ill resourced community climate change and racism and fair maps will ensure the coming years will be equitable.

Looking at house district 2 cracked a random small corner of the Asian community of interest the Bangla that the gentleman before me was talking about cashmere down to Alpena and Belmont and should be included in house two instead of where it is now.

We included a map in our sign in.

Cracking this corner of the Asian American community dilutes us for reflective leadership and midst allow Black voters to elect of their choice.

Detroit is the same and preventing of cracking the Black communities.

This is unacceptable and recommend you implement suggestions of the fair maps project and protect the vote maps.

In the interest of Asian American community are tied to Black indigenous communities and rise and fall together and cannot be left behind any longer, thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Ma'am, what number are you?

>> I'm number 97.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

>> Good afternoon.

My name is Terry Harrison.

I'm a community and politically have been active for 60 plus years.

As well as a resident of the City of Detroit.

I'm also a member of the executive committee of the NAACP Detroit Branch.

I have four points that I would just like to review with this panel.

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I believe significant improvements are needed in current proposed VRA map districts. Regarding voting right districts, your VRA analysis is leading you down a path of disenfranchisement of communities of color.

Splitting, cracking districts, weakens the voice of all communities.

Especially Detroit and Flint.

Detroit, Flint and other communities have suffered for at least 20 years.

Because the maps have been rigged for the opposite party.

This is racial gerrymandering.

It has denied people of color our full political voice in Washington and in Lansing.

My next point partisan fairness.

The maps you bring before us today give us disproportionate advantage to one give a disproportionate advantage to one party with the minority of the vote on at least three, if not all four of the partisans scoring metrics.

Your maps put a thumb on the scale for one party over another.

Fairness is when both parties win majority of votes.

Communities of interest is not an excuse to pack voters of a particular party into fewer and fewer districts.

This weakens our voice in the state legislature.

In the current map Detroit is cut up into 17 different House Districts.

Define the even most common around fairness in redistricting.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Ma'am your allotted 90 seconds has ended.

>> Look at the natural connection of communities.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right we are up to 100, 102, 103 or 104 we have 100.

>> I'm 103.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Sir what number are you? Sir what number are you?

>> 105.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Do we have 100 or 102? All right 103 go ahead.

>> Black folks in this room and it's not no disrespect, when you see this panel right here, this represents our political power in the state.

So if these three Blacks that represent us even rule in our favor they still will be outnumbered.

This is how our representation is also on the state level.

Out of 148 state legislatures only 15 of them is Black.

So every time we send Black legislatures to Lansing, we send them this a battle that they really can't win.

We send them with the wrong agenda.

That is why they can't come back with results.

On a Federal level 535 U.S. reps out of that 50 something is Black.

Our political power is in the City.

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All majority Black cities like right here in Detroit, that's why our political power is. Right now you got City elections going on in Detroit, going on in Eastpointe, going on in Southfield which all of those are majority Black cities and nobody is involved. We have to know our political power. What you see here represents that. This is not because they put it uneven. This is a representation of our voting power in the state. It's ten million people here it's 1.35 that is Black. So we can't control the state legislature. We can't vote policy to affect change. Vote locally. That is where our power is.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Sir, are you 105.

>> Thank you, good afternoon, I'm president of Troy Branch NAACP the history for voting for Black people in the United States has been filled with trauma and terror and it's critical and a matter of life or death.

Detroit must not be crooked diluting population by fragmenting in several districts or packed by concentrating the communities voting power into one District to take or reduce its impact on another.

We want fair District maps.

We want to maintain our two Congressional districts but do not force current representatives to run against each other and we currently have five seats and three other Flint in Ypsilanti.

The current maps do not increase or expand the vote but reduce and negate it and two of the Constitution requirement is if there is racially polarized voting and minority in the District can be drawn then it must be drawn.

Michigan is not Texas or Georgia, the people demand equity and representation and we want maps with proportionality.

These maps do not provide for voting rights and substantiate voting wrongs.

We demand new maps for the people of Detroit reflecting majority minority districts.

We support map 6155, 6159 and map 6250.

Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have number 104? 104, 106, 107 and 108.

>> I'm 106.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead, ma'am.

>> My name is Kim.

I live in Wyandotte, Michigan.

I'm here today to represent the UAW.

UAW is one of the most fair organizations.

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We represent people no matter race, sex, whatever.

This map it makes a mockery of what the citizens of the State of Michigan voted for. It makes a mockery of the Constitution of our state that asks you after ten years of gerrymandered districts we came together and over 60% of the state voted for you guys to be fair.

This isn't the squid game.

This is not the hunger games, these are people's lives here.

You wanted to make it fair not competitive.

These maps are competitive and pit people against each other.

They pit cities against cities.

It's obscene that we have to come here and beg to be represented after we went to the ballot box to be represented.

We go to the ballot box every two years and again and again and again obstructionist party who seeks to Detroit women's rights who seeks to destroy our Governor, everything.

That this is what you do.

Okay, this is not what we voted for.

And again as the gentleman said this is not representative of people of color.

We wanted you to be fair, not competitive. We should not fight each other over this.

You guys need to do different maps.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

What number are you, ma'am?

>> I'm 107.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead.

>> Hello, my name is Emily and we are homeowners in Grandmont, one Detroit neighborhood and grew up in St. Clair and most of my family lives in St. Clair County in Macomb County.

First, I want to thank you for all the time you spent listening to the public and as many have vocalized the unpacking of all of the maps goes too far.

I see that specifically in every State House map.

you separated the Grandmont, Rosedale communities and I'm asking you to keep the Grandmont, Rosedale communities together we are united and longstanding community that works together and I support grouping the Grandmont, Rosedale communities with surrounding with Brightmoor and Minock and expanding the House District listed as 134 to include a large chunk of Livonia, goes way too far and should be reevaluated as it really dilutes the voting power of Black Detroiters with the community, that, yes, is in Wayne County but shares very different interests with our community.

I also want to speak on State Senate map District 7 that brings together Harper Woods with the Grosse Pointes St. Clair shores and extends all the way up to New Baltimore.

I think extending all the way up to New Baltimore which is at the very tip of Macomb County goes way too far.

And I would ask you to reconsider and reevaluate that map so that Wayne County and especially Detroiters are not disenfranchising their vote.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 110, 111, 112, and 113.

>> And 110 when you reach the podium you can go ahead and speak.

>> I'm 113.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: You're 114.

>> 13.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: What number are you sir.

>> Behind that gentleman over there.

Goodness he is an icon.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Why don't you go first sir you are 112.

>> I'm Brian Cartwright and I was born and raised in the City of Detroit.

In fact, my father served in the legislature from 1960-78 Senator Arthur Cartwright and part of the family that was one of the first families of African/American elected officials in the state.

And I'm here because I'm in support of the promote the vote maps and particularly 6782.

But I'm particularly offended by the way these maps are carved because these maps are a bigger threat to our voting than anything the republicans have done.

Because it will mean we don't have any Black seats at the table for the next ten years. It's that simple.

We have to Congressional districts five State Senate seats and ten State House seats that were majority Black.

Prop two was created.

You were empowered and have a duty passed in 2018 by overwhelming majority of Michiganders because for decades we lived under republican gerrymander that is just a fact.

It's your duty to ensure we don't have a gerrymander.

Intentional or unintentional.

This may be unintentional but it is, in fact, a gerrymander that is what everyone is saying here.

Right now your State House and Senate maps don't draw any majority Black districts not one.

Therefore I urge the Commission to adopt NAACP promote the vote maps because these maps don't carve the east side up into four Macomb County Senate districts.

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We understand this is not an easy task but failing to draw these maps correctly can set the whole state back for many years to come.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 113.

>> Thank you, good evening, my name is John Johnson I serve as Executive Director of the Michigan department of civil rights.

The operational arm of the Michigan civil rights Commission.

I'm here to speak on behalf of both the department and the Commission.

We've also submitted to you a comprehensive analysis of our position in writing which we will also send to our stakeholders, post on our website and share on social media.

Simply put, the department believes that the maps presented by this Commission violate Federal civil rights law.

This Commission has historic opportunity and profound responsibility to redraw Michigan's boundaries so we preserve as the Voting Rights Acts says you must in deciding who will represent their interest in both Lansing and Washington D.C.

The maps this body approved fail that test.

They dilute majority minority districts and strip the ability for minority voter to elect legislatures reflect their community and effect any meaningful opportunity to impact public policy and law making.

If you approve any of your maps, we believe that you will be violating both Federal statutory and case law.

We urge you to rectify the VRA violations inherent in the maps under consideration.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 114, 115, 116 and 118.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead, sir.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: You have 114, go ahead, sir.

>> Hello, Commissioners, this is Kurtis Fernandez with API vote.

I'm here to ask the Commission for revise State House District 2 covering Detroit and Hamtramck.

Specifically I want to advocate that it be revised to include a few blocks that are an area west of mound, east of Conan, south of Cashmere and north of Belmont. This Section right here.

I will leave print outs for the Commission to view this Section in question more clearly.

This Section needs to move from District 10 to District 2.

So that we ensure that the Bengali and Muslim residents are kept with their community. These residents share common concerns and needs with the rest of Hamtramck in Detroit and have less in common with the Macomb County communities that are part of District 10.

I want to thank the Commission for the work that they have done thus far and specifically to Commissioner Anthony for bringing up our maps time and time again. But we have more work to do.

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Please ensure that the residents of Hamtramck and Detroit have their voices heard.
Keep Bangla Town whole.

Stand up four Muslims for Black people for the Asian community, for Latin X folks.

Do not disenfranchise people of color.

Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 115.

>> Yes, my name is David.

I'd like to piggyback on what brother said about the Voting Rights Act.

That is the law of the land.

Any map that you do come up with should comply with the voting rights act.

That being said, any other districts outside of areas that comply, that should comply with the Voting Rights Act you should have a parody of democrat and republican voters.

I looked at some percentages on the site.

And none of them, even on the outlying areas do have a parody in that vote.

So that is what we should have to make it fair.

And then nobody would be able to say it's biased.

Like what we've had for the past ten years.

So the Voting Rights Act should be complied with.

But anywhere else we should do only by numbers and percentages.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Ma'am what number are you.

>> 116.

I'm a Bangladeshi resident before I begin, I want to say thank you all for your hard work and efforts in trying to create a fair map.

Look at City lines of Detroit and understand Detroit is a home to many communities particularly BPOC and when we move to the states we chose to move to Hamtramck and Detroit location.

We chose this because it was home away from home and knew how to help us already because the Government lacked how to support us and help us out.

But Hamtramck and Detroit already knew how to offer assistance to the immigrant community so the Government failed.

In order for the Government to help us there needs to be proper representation and by proper reputation keep Hamtramck Bangla Town community together so I urge you all that Hamtramck is known to be almost highly populated immigrant community especially for Bangladeshi Americans and keep us together instead of splitting us up because we are stronger together.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 118, 119 and 120.

>> Do we have 118, 119 or 120?

>> I'm number 120.

Good afternoon y'all.

Well good evening actually.

I appreciate all the work that you guys have done as far as to draw these lines.

There is still a lot of work to do.

We got ten years, ten years you know.

Ten years is a lot of time, right? I mean my kid will be 23 years old at that time.

I've been a UAW member for 23 years.

I'm a member of the coalition of Black trade unionist sergeant at arms.

I believe you guys need to sit back, get back to the table and draw these lines a little more fair.

2% is even too much.

If you can get it under 1% that would be close enough to fair but still not fair enough, I don't believe.

But I do believe that this is what you guys need to do is sit back and reevaluate what you guys have put down on these maps.

I think that 8%, 2%, 3%, that ain't enough.

You guys ain't doing the job that we voted 61% to pass this proposal two.

This is not something that came up and yeah, I guess so.

51%, let's go ahead.

It's 61%.

That is a whole community the whole state.

You know it passed over weed.

Marijuana had less of a percentage of people pass that than 61% and gerrymandering.

Something that nobody in our communities was educated on.

Until recently.

Until 2018 no one really knew what gerrymandering was.

People thought it had something to do with an animal, right? So let's get out there and you know appreciate your guys' time and just please take note and try to just get a little bit better, do a little bit more work for us please, thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Ma'am what number are you?

>> Hi I'm 121.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 121, 122, 123 and 124 can approach the microphone and go ahead.

>> I'm a fourth generation Japanese American and live in Ferndale and a racial justice voter and addressing the Commission today because I believe communities of color need more resources and reflective representation.

I want to encourage the Commission to consider promote the vote and fair maps project maps.

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I'm deeply concerned about the dilution of the Black vote in many of the House Districts as an Asian American we are tied up with others Black Latin X and indigenous and creating a Black voting age below 40% is simply unacceptable.

A typical primary election has multiple candidates of color and cracking Black voters in the Detroit areas the votes are split increasing 40% Black district could have a representative not preferred by the community.

Unfortunately as others pointed out as well in all three proposed Pine Peach and oak two cracked and excluded a portion of the Asian American community of interest specifically Cashmere and Kinif, the northeast corner down to Alpena and Belmont, and to the west should be included in house District 2 instead of where it is now in house District 10.

This dilutes our ability to elect reflective and responsive leadership.

I ask the Commission to follow the recommendations of the fair map project.

For these adjacent districts C3746 and C3745 or the promote the vote P6784 and please reconsider the District lines you have drawn thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 122.

>> I'm 122.

Good evening my name is Eugene I live in Farmington Hills in Oakland County a stone throw from West Bloomfield in 2018 executive director of Voters Not Politicians promised community of interest would be respected and kept together as did other promoters of proposal two and they are far down the list of I'm importance and I live in gerrymandering the 14th Congressional District.

It's totally unacceptable.

My expectation is simple geometries that respect City boundaries and major communities of interest as are Counties.

Southern West Bloomfield Farmington Hills is a community of interest as we share libraries and other services.

And it's downtown of Farmington Hills and/or charred Lake business District.

Orchard Lake business road District.

We should be contiguous unit with state and national representation as our issues are the same and share civic organization like the Farmington arts Council and Farmington historical site all of which my wife has been very active in.

Being close to West Bloomfield and Farmington village having relationships with people and businesses in those areas make z them from my perspective part of my community of interest.

Thank you for your consideration.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 123.

>> I'm 121.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 121.

You are 124.

Ma'am go ahead in the red.

>> Good evening thank you so much for your diligence up to this point.

My name is Marletta, the second. I've been an active community member of Rosedale Park association in District 1 of northwest Detroit for almost 40 years.

I'm also worked at a nonprofit that focuses on up lifting the voice of youth and young adults that are at or below poverty which in Detroit is predominantly the Black and Brown population.

The voting acts right of 1965 was provided to create an opportunity for African/Americans to elect representatives that look like them of their choosing.

Your current maps crack down Detroit and make this impossible.

The maps as presented disenfranchise Detroiters at the current level of Voting Rights Acts districts should be maintained or increased.

Specifically the manner in which the maps are currently proposed, it will be difficult for an African/American to be elected into those districts.

Any District with a Black voting age population or VAP below 40% is disenfranchising.

I ask you consider partisan fairness as well.

As the Constitution requires it.

And try to get as close to 0% on the partisan bias score as possible.

There is lots more work to be done and I'm grateful for your time this evening.

Thank you for the consideration.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Go ahead.

>> My name is Tiffany Simmons and I stand before you today as a proud member of the UAW. I'm a working woman and raising a woman and it's good to see the Brenda Jones and unfair maps threaten that.

To check the scales in any one party favor is unfair and how can I as a parent teach my daughter fairness and not voice my concern of this critical process even though I'm a current Dearborn Heights resident I'm from Detroit.

And can attest that without knowing how politics works in Detroit.

Cracking Detroit into small strips and joining them with suburbs is doing the City a great disservice.

No one should vote to approve any map that has a disproportionate advantage to anyone political party.

Detroit should elect representatives and not sure your maps can guaranty that.

Detroit has had enough taken from them and stand before you to ask not to take anything else especially something this vital from them.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Numbers 125, 126, 127 and 128.

And when 125 reaches the microphone please feel free to begin speaking.

>> Good evening to the Commission.

My name is Michelle George.

I'm a registered nurse.

One of the roles of nurse is to fight racial inequality.

I support the map of 6834, 6782, 6784, P6783 and 6250.

We are dealing in a racial I look at the racial it's really evil.

Dr. King talked about three evils poverty, war and racism.

I'm not surprised because I knew when the Commission formed it was not going to do right.

This is consequences of election of 2016.

One thing John Lewis taught out and when I went to Selma our vote is precious and it's almost sacred.

My cousin was Raymond park and married to Rosa parks and we have a blueprint we will fight the racial equality and the breaking news story that was Flint one more seat.

Mitch McConnell is back in power.

Detroit if we have a mayor that will not debate that is racism and proposal P is evil and I have the blueprint from the parks family and I will continue to fight.

I'm not surprised.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> I'm number 128.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead.

>> Hello, my name is Wanda Mays.

I live in Detroit.

I'm a Cass tech and Wayne state University graduate.

I'm outraged at the proposed maps.

The maps as shown will trample over the rights of minorities such as African/American, Hispanic, Native American Bengali Muslim and Islamic people and dilute our strength of our vote.

I would like the maps to represent people who live around me and who look like me.

Detroit should be considered a Congressional District in itself.

In that way my constitutional rights will not be trampled on.

These maps favor the republican party.

Were the maps drawn from a committee of a balance of between democrats and republicans? And how in all good conscious could you draw a map with Detroiters aligned with people in St. Clair County or Birmingham or Royal Oak.

The maps as drawn are completely unfair.

Blatantly racist.

And should be determined unconstitutional.

I hope some constitutional law attorneys and constitutional law professors will investigate a possible legal challenge to these proposed maps.

They don't at all meet the guidelines constitutional criteria or processes mandated.

This is gerrymandering at its highest level.

I submitted a proposed map and hope to submit more.

They are not in compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

Please draw fair maps.

These violate the 14th and 15th amendments.

I am a U.S. Air Force veteran and my rights are being trampled on.

The rights of all Detroiters are being trampled on.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 126.

>> Hello, my name is Tarone and I lived in Michigan all my life here.

I really thank you so much for the hoard work you have been doing.

I just really want to urge everyone to say really urge to keep the maps fair when all communities of interest are together and culture and Brown people are together. I noticed Dearborn and Dearborn heights are split up and keep them together and Hamtramck individuals are there.

Keeping them together.

It's a huge amount of Bengali who live there.

Keeping District 11 Oakland County, this should include Milford and more of Commerce Township together, not much of Farmington Hills.

And keeping and not having Washington hunting ton mixed with Oakland County together with District 11.

I really urge you to keep when you're doing the maps and everything do it with integrity of what the Constitution is saying.

And the last point I just want to say I really appeal to you to consider maps drawn by promote the vote and portal are P6782, P86783 and P86784.

Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 127.

>> I'm 127.

My name is Tonya.

I live in the City of Wayne and I'm a factory worker and a proud UAW member.

And from 2017 and 2018 we spent countless hours and time, blood, sweat and treasure collecting signatures to get you people these jobs. So thanks for doing that.

In the City of Wayne and Westland we share a school District. We share library, police fire, reciprocity, our kids play at the same teams and shop at the same grocery store. And State House Oak, Peach and Pine you put us together in a District as we should be.

I do not understand why my brothers and sisters in Detroit did not get the same sort of consideration that I did.

They should be in communities where they shop together, worship together, work together. We need to adopt the maps submitted by promote the vote and do a better job.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So I appreciate the clapping.

I don't want to discourage clapping, but I do want you to know I got a request from people who are listening online that we not clap while people are speaking because then the interpreters and people who are listening online can't hear the rest of that person's statement.

So absolutely clap if you want to but I ask that you please hold your applause until someone is done talking so everybody online can hear them.

Sorry it's a request that I just got.

So I just wanted to remind everybody.

All right 129, 130, 131 and 132.

And 129 when you reach the podium feel free to begin speaking.

>> I'm 129.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead sir.

>> 129 good evening my name is Lucius. I'm a Wayne County represent and representing the UAW.

I just want to talk about redistricting in the City of Detroit.

When property it's a great tool to use because it shows the growing diversity in our cities.

We have City elections and usually have multiple people of color but then for the past ten years you have these politicians who use gerrymander and they totally take away the vote of the people in the community and put who they want this office instead of who the community wants and people that are helped.

So we need to get this process corrected so we can have effective representation for the people who live in the City of Detroit.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 130.

>> Yes, good evening my name is Roslyn Nelson I'm a member of the Southfield Delta and we thank you for undertaking this difficult task it's a lot of work you are asked to do and comments for tonight and take them to heart and include those into considerations.

As a local public service organization we support keeping community of interest of businesses in Southfield and Lathrup as proposed on the map submitted this past September C4774.

We also support the Commission's proposed maps which join Southfield Lathrop with City of Detroit to and we are in Wayne County we share a border and community of interest criteria are more important under redistricting rules rather than maintaining the county lines.

We have historical and economic and educational care giving and family ties as a community.

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As a minority population in Oakland County Black representation needs to be protected from becoming diluted as relates to common interest of Black citizens in these communities.

It's important you keep this community of interest intact and we thank you for your commitment and your interest and concern.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 131.

>> Good evening. My name is Gilyn Harris. I've been a lifelong resident of Detroit. I spent time walking the streets making sure you got a job and completely disillusioned and my father worked as a factory working for 33 years, I've been an educator for 29 years.

I wonder what you are voting on.

Have you been to Detroit public schools? I can remember taking my very own children to schools and suburbs for competitions and they are like mom, what kind of school is this? This is what you're voting on.

You are voting on what our children will learn.

Let's see if we don't support the City of Detroit for ten years and we have children who don't have the economic support and who don't have the educational capability.

We love it when you come and say I'm going to give you coats and candy and support you clap clap clap, cry.

Then move on.

However, if we don't have the representation of our own people, your community will be affected.

You can't -- we are not an enigma we are together.

One State of Michigan and as I sit have sat here in this seat and watched people not pay attention, I am disgusted quite frankly.

I apologize.

I wrote something down that was a lot sweeter than what my emotions have to say right now.

But the very least you could do as I took off a day from work to come in here to speak with you is to lift your eyes and look into my eyes and appreciate the fact all of these people are here.

And we voted for you to be in office or to represent us.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 1232.

>> Thank you, good evening, Commissioners my name is Mindy my family is originally from Bangladesh.

And moved to Michigan in 2001.

I spent 13 years growing up in Detroit and what is now known as Bangla Town.

I attended Detroit public schools for middle and high school and have pockets of diverse people within the City of Detroit.

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I'm currently serving as the vice president on PTO board for my children's elementary school after realizing the need for representation.

Our maps need to be fair so that that our elected officials can look like the people they serve.

By keeping the Detroit and Hamtramck Bangladesh communities together we have a better chance of getting resources we need such as language access, citizen for the parents and supporting other means of overcoming barriers that most new immigrant communities face.

However, in all three proposed House District maps Pine Peach and Oak House District 2 has cracked out the most corner of the Asian community from cashmere in the northeast corner down to Alpena, Algoma in the southeast, all the way west should be included in house District 2.

Instead of where it is now.

In house District 10.

Cracking this corner dilutes our ability to elect reflective and responsive leadership. As Asian Americans we believe our fate is tied with tied up with those of our other communities of color.

Thank you, Commissioners.

And you are the ones with agency to change this.

Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 133, 134, 135 and 136.

Are you number 133? Go ahead.

>> Hi, good evening.

I'm speaking on behalf of MUUSJN, which is the Michigan Unitarian Universal Social Justice Network. We are nonpartisan, faith-based, statewide organization.

Our members span the political spectrum and we reside in every corner of this great state.

We would like to humbly thank the Commission for your dedication to this sacred work. It is sacred work.

We have been looking at all of the maps with great interest and are still very concerned that none of the tree maps display partisan fairness or address prison gerrymandering.

We ask you to place the prison populations who do not have the right to vote in overpopulated house and/or Senate districts.

This would help prevent the surrounding non-prison population from having an outside influence.

Promote the vote has submitted maps that do a great job detailing dealing with these issues.

And we ask that you please consider the promote the vote maps portal ID numbers P6782, P6783, and P6784.

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Thank you very much for your time.

As we all work together to end partisan gerrymandering and ensure that all voters can speak with the same volume.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 134 go ahead.

>> Hi, my name is Debbie and I'm from Bloomfield Township.

Kudos for you working so hard and creating and modifying the maps but they are not good enough yet.

These maps must be adjusted to reflect true partisan fairness.

After all the party that has the most votes in the state should get the most representation.

The question is how many seats would each party win if the statewide election resulted in a tie? The answer should be a tie as well.

But under all your current proposed maps, the scenario would end up with more republican representatives.

This shows a distinct republican advantage.

All the work we did in the 2018 election to establish this Commission was intended to not have that happen.

I urge you to look at the promote the vote maps which meet all the 7 criteria while showing partisan fairness.

Unlike the collaborative maps they don't break up Bloomfield Township and neighboring communities.

Please support the house map 06250 and the Senate map 06159.

Unlike West Bloomfield that borders republican areas, Bloomfield Township is surrounded by other democratic areas and it does not benefit partisan fairness by splitting us up.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 135.

>> 135 my name is Allen wolf I also live in Bloomfield Township.

I want to thank each Commissioner for the incredible dead case you have shown to date for this critical task for our democracy.

I'm wearing the Voters Not Politicians T-shirt I wore in 2018 when I went door to door to hundreds of homes asking people to sign the petition which eventually became known as proposal two which created this Commission.

Like all of my fellow volunteers I was motivated by a dream stopping gerrymandering and seeing districts drawn impartially and fairly.

If one party won 51 and another one 48% then their representation in the Michigan legislature and the U.S. house should roughly equate to that.

I realize that we goofed when we drafted the language for proposal two.

It turns out that it's almost impossible to balance all the priorities that we demanded.

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So let me say it simply.

We need maps that are in compliance with the Voting Rights Act and we want representation reflected of the percent of votes each party gets.

The rest is nice to have.

But shouldn't be the highest priority.

The U.S. Congress the Birch map is a good map go with it.

For the Michigan Senate the cherry map is reasonable and can live with it.

However all of the tree maps for the Michigan house of representatives are horrible.

When a party gets less than 48% of the votes, they can't get 54% of the seats.

None of the maps for the Michigan house come close to meeting the objective for fair representation.

Please give us fair maps.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 136.

>> Good evening my name is Chris.

I'm from Ferndale, Michigan.

And many folks tonight have spoken more eloquently than I can about the Voting Rights Acts districts.

I really hope that those will be preserved in the form that they are now.

Because these are communities of interest.

That need to be kept together.

I also want to speak to number 133's mention of prison gerrymandering.

When you think about it, the fact that most of the prison population is comprised of African/Americans, and that within those communities within the prison system they don't get to vote.

But their bodies are included in the District in which they live.

So please end prison gerrymandering as well.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 137, 138, and I'm sorry 137, 138, 139 and 140 and when 137 is at the podium you can begin to speak.

>> 137.

My name is Sherrie and a collator in a grass roots o situation Bloomfield individuals and thank the Commission for doing this hard work.

Currently the maps you have drawn show a disproportionate republican advantage.

If the question is how many seats would each party have in a statewide election results were a tie the answer to that question should be a tie.

Unfortunately the current maps show that if elections were a tie, the republicans would have advantage.

I'm here to plead for fairness in our elections.

Anything less will serve to under mind or democracy and destroy our country.

Please fix the maps to reflect partisan fairness.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 138.

>> Good afternoon.

Good evening I should say my name is Sheila.

I am a UAW retiree from the State of Michigan for over 30 years.

And I applaud you guys for doing what you chose to do.

And I am reiterating what you have heard over many times.

And that the current maps are unfair to districts of Detroit and other communities.

And is also a disadvantage to potential republican party or a specific party.

Now, mind you what you're doing and I just pray you are doing due diligence of what you have to keep in mind is as you are choosing and redistricting, I hope you are approaching this with the revelation and wisdom of God.

We are still one nation under God and voting rights is not just for the State of Michigan and from my understanding Michigan has always been a union state.

Even though certain laws have passed that rocked that notion.

Yet we still need to come together as a people.

So I pray that the peace and wisdom of God come upon all of you in revelation of what you choose for us as our peoples.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 139.

>> My name is Jim.

First want to thank all the voters in the State of Michigan for creating this Commission.

And for all of you Commissioners that are working so hard that you have.

Unfortunately your votes and your drafts and your will only be able to find out how good of a job you did for the percentages of democrats and republicans getting their fair share of seats after the election of 2022.

So until then all the work you're going to do I hope you take in all the considerations that they have done.

I'm here to talk about my community Down River.

And sure most of you who became Commissioners never heard of the community of Down River.

But it's a bunch of Cities that are bordered by the Detroit river south of Detroit.

So southern Wayne County and southern have got a Senate District that we support the way you have drafted it as of right now.

And we want you to continue to keep the City of Taylor intact as it is now as a Senate District.

Because those are people like all have the same school districts.

We have the same problems.

And we have the same tax base that we need to solve our problems.

So keeping us altogether as you have already started to do, we hope it stays that way and thank you very much for your service.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 140.

>> Thank you and good evening my name is Judy Davis.

I'm a resident of Southfield.

And a member of the Southfield Delta.

We thank the Commission for taking on this monumental task.

As a public organization we support keeping contiguous community of interest of Black citizens in Southfield, Lathrup and Oak Park together in the Congressional and State Senate voting districts as proposed on our map number C4774.

Unfortunately most maps this connect Oak Park and Southfield.

We also support the Commission's proposed maps which join Southfield, Lathrup with addition of Oak Park to the City of Detroit.

Although Detroit is in Wayne County, according to the redistricting criteria maintaining and prioritizing COIs more important than keeping the County boundaries.

Our COI shares important historical, cultural, economic, educational care giving and family ties.

And as a 13% minority population in greater Oakland County, we believe that representation needs to be protected for the Black citizens and not diluted as it relates to our common interests among the Black community.

So it is important to keep the COI together.

And I thank you so much for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 141, 142, 143, and 144.

And 141 when you reach the microphone feel free to begin speaking.

>> Good evening I'm number 141.

My name is Shareece Houston Alan. I'm a resident of Oakland County and a member of the Southfield Delta.

Thank you so much for taking this historical task.

As a local public service organization we support keeping the community of interest of Black citizens in Southfield, Lathrup village and Oak Park together in the Congressional and State Senate voting districts as proposed via our map number C34774 which was submitted in September.

We also support the Commission's proposed maps of 6155 of which joins Southfield Lathrup and other south Oakland County communities with parts of the City of Detroit.

Although Detroit is in Wayne County, we share a border and the community of interest criteria are more important under the redistricting rules than maintaining County lines.

This community of interest shares important cultural, historical, economical, educational, care giving and family ties as a community.

As a minority population in Oakland County Black representation needs to be protected.

It is important to keep this community of interest intact.

Thank you.

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 142.

>> Good evening.

A wise person once said if you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything.

As I stand here before you as a member of the Southfield Deltas, I see repetition has its privileges and benefit.

So I stand to tell you this: In the City of Southfield the African/American citizens in the cities of Southfield, Lathrup village and Oak Park are comprised of a contiguous community.

Under the current redistricting rules, sharing significant cultural, historical, economic and other interests, we are here to let you know that we oppose what you are doing today.

It is our hope that you will stand and reconsider because I will tell you this: Our vote does matter.

And when we as a people exercise our right to vote, things do change.

I'm going to leave you with these parting words: When you are a person of color, a Black woman to be specific, you seldom get to do what you just want to do.

You always do what you have to do.

And we are standing here to tell you that you have to do something different.

Because you will see us again and again and again.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 143.

>> Hello.

My name is Ashley Moseley.

I live in the Hamtramck Bangla Town area and I want to start by commending the Commission for working towards bringing together Bangla Town and Hamtramck within one District.

I live on Cashmere Street which currently is cut from the rest of my community.

In all three of the maps brought before us today, adjustments need to be made.

Not just for my community but for the rest of the City as a whole.

I urge the Commission to conduct due diligence across our diverse communities in Detroit and surrounding Metro.

I understand this takes time.

But this time will be worth it.

Because it ensures community representation and thus ability to form policies that our communities need.

I urge you to consider promote the vote maps P6782, P6783, P6784.

The citizens of our beloved Detroit have fought for decades to build communities where their voices are heard.

We did not arise from the ashes time and time again to be silenced by division.

I urge you to do better.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 144.

>> Good evening. Commissioners my name is Camila and I serve as the Executive Director for the Detroit Branch NAACP.

Thank you for showing up to listen to the spirit of Detroiters as we petition you not to wipe out the hard earned victories we fought and want to lift Black communities in the City.

The state and our country.

It's unfortunate that intended maps Detroiters and Black voters cannot see our community of interest nor our City protected.

No matter how the lines are drawn.

The districts do not change and Detroit voters do not have the same options as you provided some other regions of the state.

I encourage you to deeply consider map 672, 6782-84, 06155, 59 and 6250.

Look at them and please ask yourself why they don't work before you discredit them.

You heard this data throughout the day but this is why it matters.

Black feel fight for Black people differently and we have allies and other communities but when the narrow tiffs are so drastic like the east side of Detroit to marine or west side to West Bloomfield, we don't just need allies but we need experiences and understand us.

As a young leader in the City I watched the Black elected officials represent my interest and education the economy and leadership.

The maps drawn don't do that in any maps with fewer voting districts just are not right.

Lastly remember lifting the voices of Black people never sent us in the wrong direction but from people who think they know better than us always does.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 145, 146, 147 and 148 and 145 when you reach the podium please begin speaking.

>> Good afternoon I'm number 145 Milango says all great achievements require time. This Commission has an opportunity to be great so I challenge you to use your time wisely so that we all will be great when this endeavor is done.

I am Gina Wilson Stewart and I'm here from the great City of River Rouge like my Down River partner over there I will say the name of some cities you have not heard before.

But we are very passionate about us sticking together.

I'm from River Rouge and our City borders Ecorse and southwest Detroit. We are the Tri-Cities.

We do everything together.

And we want our cities to remain together a you draw these maps.

I am also the president of the western Wayne County Branch of NAACP.

We cover cities outside of Detroit.

But needless to say we are still stronger when we are together.

I'm going to tell you a couple of the cities we need to make sure we keep together.

We have Wayne and Westland.

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They do everything together.

Keep them together.

We have Romulus and Van Buren Township.

Keep them together.

We have Ecorse and River Rouge have to be kept together.

We also have Dearborn and Dearborn Heights they need to be together.

And lastly, we have the cities of Taylor and Inkster.

I'm sure you don't know the cities, do the work and you will see we are together and we love each other.

And the communities of interest are there.

So please remember those cities when you make your decisions.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 146.

>> We are hi 146 good evening.

I am director of Islamic center of Detroit one of the largest centers in the State of Michigan.

After consulting with some of my congregations and other Islamic centers in Detroit area.

This is all feedback.

Regarding the Senate maps it's good.

And the Congressional maps we would like to see the Bengali community and Hamtramck in one District.

Regarding the house maps, Dearborn would be divided in three and would like to see Dearborn in two districts maximum, Dearborn into maximum and added on to Detroit.

We think much more fairness should be in the maps of the districts.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 147.

>> Hi folks.

Can you hear me okay great.

Hey folks so my name is Bob from Grosse Pointe park part of the Lake St. Clair community of interest.

I've tried to give a voice to some folks who have made comment from all the way around the Lake from Grosse Pointe park up to New Baltimore.

And I appreciate that in two of the three collaborative State Senate maps you have drawn us altogether including the important critical Wetlands in Ira and Clinton Townships in St. Clair County.

In one of the three you split us up and split my hometown of Grosse Pointe park off from the rest of the District.

I prefer the one where my hometown is included with the Lake in our environmental District.

It's important to me and a lot of folks.

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There is one map that's a little bit different that includes the whole Lake St. Clair community of interest.

But also includes the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood in Detroit and it would be great if those folks want to be part of our District but it should be up to them.

It is a nautical community on the Detroit river where Lake St. Clair feeds in it with canal houses there but I've heard a lot of folks here from Detroit who wanted to determine their own future, have their own representatives and I really think if anyone is from Jefferson Chalmers should speak up and say we want to be with the Lake St. Clair suburbs or not it's up to them.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 148.

We are good go ahead, sir.

>> Hello.

My name is Michael.

I live in hunting ton Woods and I speak tonight in support of the maps submitted by promote the vote.

P6782, P6783 and P6784.

These maps are considerably better than any of the maps released by the Commission in meeting criteria enshrined in the state Constitution of the overwhelming vote for redistricting reform in 2018.

Those criteria include minimizing partisan lean maximizing the number of competitive districts, District compactness and respect for community boundaries.

I also believe a map with these futures will help reduce the political polarization that is draining the fabric of our republican.

Most importantly the promote the vote maps are better in terms of complying with the Voting Rights Act but not eliminating or unduly diluting majority minority districts.

The Commission's maps are problematic in this respect and they are particularly odious and how they carve out the City of Detroit and Oakland County where I live in my life in strange and unnatural ways.

I have one final plea I urge you to give full and fair consideration to promote the vote maps rather than discounting them just because they were not generated by the Commission.

Your job is to select a map that does the best job of promoting all of the goals.

That Michigan voters and the Michigan Constitution have charged you with implementing.

In fact, you not only have the power to choose a non-Commission maps that best satisfies the goals arguably you have the duty to do so.

Thank you very much for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 149, 150, 151, 152.

And 149 when you reach the podium feel free to begin speaking.

>> Good evening, Commissioners.

I live in Hamtramck.

And I work for a nonprofit organization global Detroit.

I've been in several hearings.

And advocated for Bangladesh community and Hamtramck and Bangla Town to keep them together.

I'm glad that Commission kept this whole community together in District 2.

But unfortunately there is a slight like a small triangle from Conant to Mound and only three streets that touch Cashmere and Harold. And these three streets have a mile is a triangle and excluded from map two to map ten, which is not understandable.

What is the reason? But if you can amend it and put the small triangle in District 2 it will be very nice and make the whole community happy.

I appreciate your hard work.

And I wish you the best, thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 150.

>> Good evening, Commission.

I live in Hamtramck.

And actually thank you for doing your hard work.

I just tell you to one small request, there is District 2 and District 10 that only little, small part.

You can see you guys have this map, I think.

There is a yellow piece.

Only two or three blocks.

If you make this two or three blocks with District 2 it will be so nice.

And keep the whole Bangla Town together.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 151.

>> Good evening my name is Homer jolly I'm a citizen of Detroit, born, raised, educated Detroit public schools.

A couple weeks ago I met with the chairman there a video conference and I heard a number of people addressing the committee to listen to their local reps.

Their state Senators and State House representatives.

And the reason we voted for y'all is to get away from that.

So I hope you're not paying them any attention.

They were very passionate when they was talking to you about listening to their reps.

And that is gerrymandering.

That is why we are here tonight.

To have a Commission to stop the gerrymandering.

Also I wanted to ask you if you will to consider the AFLCIO proposal for the redistricts for the State of Michigan.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 152.

>> My name is Jioni and a resident of Detroit the majority of my life.

I'm asking when drawing the maps you keep the word oppression in mind or rather keep it out of mind.

Please think of the voices that you would silence if this is not done correctly.

I'm raising two toddlers a boy and a girl.

We are Black.

I shouldn't have to I'm sorry I shouldn't have to take them across 8 mile to get a better education like many of the parents in my generation have done.

We have been under served for far too long and I'm asking you when redrawing these maps you do it fairly and also keep in mind the benefit of the future of our families and our communities.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. We are going to take four more and then I think we are going to take a ten-minute break so everybody can get up and stretch their legs for a minute, 153, 154, 155 and 156 and 153 when you approach the microphone please go ahead and speak.

>> Good evening I'm resident of Hamtramck and member of APIA vote Michigan.

Thank you for taking time to address our Bangla Town communities of interest and considering the Bangla Town area and including them in the same map, map 2 and also referred to map 1037 submitted by APIA.

Unfortunately a few strips of Bangla Town area are left out.

And they are connected with the distant District.

I humbly request including these four Bangla Town streets across from Conant.

That is not in map two.

These streets are Harold Street Prescott, Cashmere and I want to thank you in advance for considering this and thank you for giving me the time to speak.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Ms. Reinhardt, I understood you were helping with translation services for 154.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, thank you Madam Chair.

Commissioners we do have an interpreter on the line who is able to interpret for Bengali.

Are you present and can you hear us?

>> Yes, I'm present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: We have Mohammed here who would like to provide public comment to the Commission can you relay the following to Mohammed we will be given three minutes instead of 90 seconds so his public comment will be given in English to the Commission.

>> Okay.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Please let Mohammed know he is free to address the Commission whenever he is ready to begin.

>> My name is Mohammed.

I'm working with the API for a long time. And my number is 154.

It's my hope and I want to tell you, you to the Commission that we are living with different communities together for long time.

So we want the same way and want everybody to live together in the same place in Hamtramck.

So I want, I wish the Commission will keep that intact so we can live together.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Number 155 and this will also require translation services.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Can you hear us?

>> Yes, I'm the interpreter.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Let him know we will give him three minutes to address the Commission and let Mohammed know he is ready to get begin whenever.

>> Number 155.

Bangladeshi American.

I'm sorry I forgot his name.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: His name is Mohammed.

>> Okay my name is Mohammed.

I have been here a long time.

I'm living in Hamtramck.

And I came and my number is 155.

And I came here to address my area.

Like I want the yellow part to include the old map, that is all I want.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 156.

>> Hi, my name is Amanda.

And I'm a resident of Hamtramck.

And I'm here to request that the additional blocks that are in that yellow triangle that everyone has been talking about be moved from District 10 to District 2.

I think this is important because it will simultaneously keep the Bangladesh vote together and also not further dilute the Black voices in District 10.

So I really do appreciate the responsiveness of the Commission in you know continuing to reevaluate these maps.

And I really would appreciate if you would just look back to the map P1037 submitted by Rebecca Islam.

And just like just look at it again and make sure that we are getting everyone where they should be because that yellow sliver is just it's out of place and it should be kind of obvious.

And I appreciate your work.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. So at this point without objection we will take a ten-minute recess so everybody can get up and stretch their legs.

Is currently 7:01.

I want to indicate to the individuals who are waiting online to provide remote public comment we are 157 and have 217 people what are signed up for in person comment. Based on the rate we are moving through commenters I estimate it will be another hour-and-a-half for in person public comment and should go to approximately 8:30 that way the people who are waiting online know around 8:30 they should be on deck to provide their comments.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair apologies and I believe the final number for in person public comment is 219.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 219 so still about 2.5 hours or 1.5 hours away before we move to the remote people.

All right we will come back here at 7:10.

Thank you very much everybody.

[Recess]

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: I call the meeting of the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission back to order at 7:20 p.m. will the secretary please call the roll?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely Madam Chair say present which I call your name if you are attending today's meeting remotely, please disclose you are attending remotely and your physical location.

I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present from Reed City, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present; attending remotely from Battle Creek, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: 11 Commissioners are present.

And there is a quorum.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Did you get Commissioner Clark is here?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I'll add that right now 12 Commissioners are present and there is a quorum.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

All right we are going back to our public comment 157, 158, 159, 160 and 157 when you reach the microphone, please feel free to begin speaking.

>> Good evening, everyone.

My name is Rahim and a resident of Hamtramck and member of API vote.

I'm also asking that Bangla Town will be in one District.

With your current map my family lives in District 2.

Which is in Detroit and a prays in a mosque in Detroit.

So please shift the map to include the few blocks of Bangla Town and consider P1037 when making changes we ask for.

Thank you for listening and have a good day.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 159.

>> Good evening.

I'm a representative of the Bangladesh community and member of APIA.

I'm here to ask you keep Bangla Town together.

My previous speakers talked how that would be possible.

It's really important for us to keep our community together and please consider map 10P1037 when making the changes we ask for and thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 160.

>> Good evening, everyone.

I'm a resident of Hamtramck and a member of APIA vote.

I'm too asking that you consider adding those few corners of Cashmere in the northeast corn to District 2 on your house.

District map so Bangla Town is one District.

I will also encourage you to look at P1037 for more information.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 161.

>> Good evening, Commissioners.

I'm with APAI vote Michigan.

And I have been organizing the Bangladesh community for the past several years making phone calls and door knocking with Asian community members to come out and vote we are asking you to help us keep the community together. We appreciate what the Commission has done so far.

A special shout out to Commissioner Anthony Eid for standing by with P1037 and ask you to include the few blocks of Bangla Town that are missing from District 2.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 162, 163, 164 and 165.

>> Hello Commissioners.

I'm a resident of Detroit.

And member of the Bangladeshi community here to support the map submitted by APIA vote.

We are asking you to keep Bangla Town together.

We appreciate that you guys have already revised your first map to keep us in two districts.

So with your efforts of adding four more blocks all the Bangla Town will be in one District.

Again I will also say please take a look at P1037 and thank you for the time to speak today.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 163.

>> Hello. My name is Tanvir, a resident of Hamtramck here representing the Bangladeshi and APIA vote and ask that you keep Bangla Town together. And there is a map shared for your reference.

We are asking for a few more blocks to be added to District 2 so we are in one District look at P1037 for content thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA:

>> Good evening, everyone and thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak my Nam is Mohammed and I'm here to represent APIA vote Michigan.

I want to reinforce what previous speakers have said and want Bangla Town included in one District and want you to refer to P1037.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA:

>> Hello Commissioners and community members.

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I have been with APIA since 2018.

Working to organize community members to go out to vote.

I do have a canvas in Hamtramck and Detroit areas to get people out to vote from our community.

Our goal is to make it easy for our members to have the collective voice.

They are proposed to house a map where Bangla Town is missing a few streets is the voice for our communities so please consider adding the few to District 2.

Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 166, 167, 168 and 169.

>> Hi I'm 165.

My name is Katie and I am an enthusiastic supporter of proposal two and thank you for the work you have done up to this point.

I would like you to know I don't think your job is quite done so Michigan citizens are counting on this Commission to create maps to represent them in the legislature.

The current draft do not accurately reflect partisan fairness which is a requirement of the Constitution.

You can respect communities of interest while abiding by partisan fairness.

If you have to unpack cities and make funny shapes to do that on the maps, then you should. As the maps currently stand communities of interest are being packed into fewer and fewer districts.

Their power in the state legislature is being undermined and diluted. Look at AFLCIO fair maps project for how to get partisan fairness while complying with all the other criteria too.

I would also urge you to look at the maps drawn by promote the vote.

P6782, P6783 and P6784.

Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have 166?

>> I'm Alex and live in Harrison Township in Macomb County.

I want to see as much of Macomb in its own Congressional District as possible.

I realize that is different but parts of Macomb Warren out of the proposed six District is unacceptable.

We need to keep communities of interest together.

That is not going to happen when major parts of Macomb are broken off and thrown into other Congressional districts and other parts of Oakland County are just thrown in there also.

This not only breaks up our vote but makes it hard to form a District that properly represents the interest of Detroit arbitrarily throwing places like Warren in with that District.

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We need districts that are fairly represent the people that live in them not districts that further divide and op press us thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 167.

>> Good evening.

I'm Chair of the Commission in the 60s African/Americans took a major step forward with passage of the civil rights and voting rights legislation.

Today nearly 60 years later as we are stuck in reverse as opposed to driving forward.

The Voting Rights Act and African/Americans are under attack on several fronts.

Leg my is an of African/American vote is constantly questioned, challenged and threatened.

Roadblocks like voter suppression laws and polling places throughout this country are tactics that continue today.

This is systematic erosion of our vote.

The layers against us is now in the redistricting process for local, state and Federal offices.

Districts that were once minority controlled by African/Americans are being sliced and diced for new math that diminish our majority.

I joined in the Michigan citizens Redistricting Commission to draw maps that are fair, just and not once that have been gerrymandered to benefit a certain party or candidate.

We must not let the progress we have made be eroded.

The citizens of Detroit Wayne County and Michigan demand and deserve fair maps now.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 168.

>> Hi Commissioners, thank you so much for your time.

And your energy that you guys have put into this process.

My name is Cindy.

I live, work play and pray in southwest Detroit.

I'm also part of Detroit Hispanic development corporation.

Where we work every year to mobilize residents to get involved civically including logging countless hours of making sure that the Latino community gets out to vote.

And I'm frustrated because here we are again.

In the year 2000 redistricting split our community of interest and we haven't had Latino representation ever since.

You have taken the Latino southwest Detroit community of interest into consideration for the Senate and Congressional districts.

And for that I thank you.

But we need to take the same level of attention, consideration for the rest of Detroit.

I'm very disappointed that analysis of the Latino voting population was not done.

And since it wasn't done, the Latino voters were not taken into account across the state.

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I need to emphasize how this will severely disenfranchise communities of color like mine.

Right now in our gerrymandered districts, we have 17 total voting rights districts.

In yours we have none.

The house maps split southwest Detroit Latino community and Down River communities in half.

It's possible to achieve voting districts for Latino and Black voters if you choose to.

Please continue to do the work.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. I believe number 169 requires Spanish translation services so Ms. Reinhardt if you could assist with that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you Madam Chair.

Are you can you hear us?

>> Yes, can you hear me.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, we can.

Thank you.

Anna will be our interpreter today and tell Claudia she will have three minutes to address the Commission today.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: It sound you may be a bit too close to your microphone.

It's sounding a little garbled.

>> Is that better?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: A little better. Thank you.

Can you ask Claudia to make her statement a few sentences at a time?

>> I already did.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Tell Claudia she can begin when she is ready.

>> My name is Claudia, promotion THDT. I've been a resident of Detroit for 22 years.

I live in the southeast Section of the Latino community.

I want to thank you for your efforts for the Congress maps.

This helps the Latino community and people of color keep close.

And I thank you for that.

We all have the same interests in common and I appreciate you taking the opportunity to put this in consideration.

Please keep in this way so all the maps are fair.

In the political aspect.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 170, 171, 172, and 173.

>> All right my name is Oscar and I'm number 170.

I've lived in Troy all of my life and united communities based on interest ensure us disadvantaged communities are better represented in Lansing.

Our community is done with the gerrymandering and manipulation.

I support the proposed southwest Detroit Congressional map and Senate map.

I believe that it reflects our community correctly and finally we can be done with the days where political interests and copy print greed are Central in our districts.

The rest of Detroit and communities of interest represented in Lansing.

[Speaking Spanish]

>> I'm number 171.

I've lived in southwest Detroit for 24 years.

I'm here today on behalf of my southwest Detroit Latin X community.

I think it's extremely important our current map proposal for the Congressional state and Senate map stays as permanent map. Because our community is unique, we are immigrants and bilingual and religion in an under resourced community.

We have needs that some of our neighboring towns or cities do not have.

For the state map, State House map, it would benefit us more to remain connected with the zip codes 48217 because we have very similar needs.

Similar needs than to extend to the north.

We would like Tireman to be our northern border.

I have a fear if our District is divided again, our power will be divided as well.

And we will not have proper representation for our people.

I ask you take my comment into account when deciding on a final map and that you consider partisan fairness when discussing the map proposed throughout the State of Michigan.

The map I plan to support is C2453.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> I'm number 172.

My name is Claudia Sanchez. And I'm a promoter of democracy with BHBC. And I've been a resident in southwest Detroit for 26 years.

First of all, I would like to thank you for all your effort and work you have done to maintain our Hispanic Latino community to be united.

That is one of my main interests to maintain the community united and keep our culture intact.

Also I would like to ask to maintain the representation of the political party fair and balance add in all the states.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 173.

>> Justin Bloomfield Township.

When you release the map for state and house and Senate, I thought it was a prank.

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The results of the Commission provided I should say or I should say rubber stamped are a joke and display of incompetence.

Most egregious is the Pine state map. And Bloomfield Township currently resides in one state House District the 40th.

Under this ridiculous proposal, it will now be part of five House Districts. Why? Incentive for the voters not politics ballot proposal was telling the voters communities would be preserved and communities with common interests will be used. Tell me why the community of Bloomfield Township is being sliced up five ways including now communities of Detroit, Commerce, Lake Orion Southfield, among others.

I will give you the answer, there is none.

What is becoming increasingly evident is this process and Commission is a sham and we've been duped as voters.

When you have the NAACP upset about your result us along with many others, it does not mean you did a good job of compromise. Rather it means you are incompetent hacks.

Potentially with a political agenda from what I can surmise.

You need to fire your consultants and go back to the drawing board.

Keep communities whole and actually try to pretend you care about communities of interest.

What you've displayed is intentional gerrymandering and this commission was supposed to do away with that.

You will enjoy impending lawsuits, not from me but other people because you managed to divide us even further.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Our next four speakers 174, 175, 176 and 177 have requested language translation services. So Ms. Reinhardt, can you facilitate?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hi Anna once more could you let our next four speakers know they will have three minutes to address the Commission? You may begin whenever you are ready.

>> Hello, my name is and I'm part of HBP and live in Detroit for 23 years.

First of all I want to thank you for all the work you have done.

We appreciate all the work you have done.

And for keeping us together.

I'm here to support both maps Congress and Senate.

I want to support this because I want our Latin community to be together and represented in the future.

As a community we will vote democratic, sorry.

And if you divided us, we will not have any seats in the state.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 175.

>> Yes.

I have been living in the southeast Detroit area for over 23 years.

I'm also part of DHDT.

I'm here to support the Congress and Senate maps.

It's very important for us and for our kids and family to enjoy the church, playgrounds, schools and other facilities that are in our area.

Besides that we are multi-cultural area and we would like to keep it this way.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you hello I'm also part of the group.

I live in the southwest of Detroit for 22 years.

And I want to thank you all for all the work that you have put by keeping our community of interest together.

In the Congress and Senate maps.

These two maps keep us close.

Both Latin community and the people of color.

I want to thank all of you for taking this in consideration and to please in the future take a good look and keep the maps fair.

Thank you.

>> My name is Marie part of HDCC and living in southwest Detroit for over 25 years.

First of all I want to thank you for all the hard work you have put in to drawing these maps and keeping our communities together.

I'm here to support the maps you have drawn for the Congress and Senate for our Latin community.

We need to keep together so that our voices can be heard.

And our community of interest can stay together.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. .

178, 179, 180.

>> I'm sorry.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 178.

>> Hi I'm number 178.

My name is crystal and I'm a community organizer with the Detroit Hispanic development corporation we are a nonprofit on the borderline of Corktown and southwest Detroit and work with Latin X community.

And I've been a resident of southwest Detroit and Down River Area for all 26 years of my life.

First off, I want to thank you all for the hard work you have be doing.

We really appreciate you considered our comments and kept our community of interest together in the state and Congressional maps.

However the house of representatives map is breaking our community of interest.

We would like Tireman Street to be our northern border and not extend past that. We would also like to see Ecorse Lincoln Park and Melvindale in this District. They are part of the diverse community of interest and we do a lot of effort and we are very tight knit community in the area.

I would ask during the remainder of the redistricting process that you continue to consider partisan fairness throughout the state.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 179.

>> Good evening, my name is Betty I live in Detroit for excuse me, for 47 years. I came to support the Senate and Congressional map proposed by southwest Detroit. I want the map to stay the way it was proposed. The reason is because we wanted the surrounding communities to maintain together to have powerful unified voice. The last time the maps were drawn, we were divided and to lose representation. We want to avoid this from happening again. I support our agencies to remain funded so that our community continues receiving vital resources.

Our community has many needs and resources we would like to be grouped with other communities that have similar needs and resources.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA:

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 180.

>> Hello, my name is Michael resident of Ann Arbor Township. Live in the greater Ann Arbor area since 1978. And I'm here to talk about sort of the unique relationship that exists between Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor. Having been settled back in the 1800s, the two towns have basically grown up together. If you are familiar with being in Ann Arbor as I am you know people basically live and work in that area. There is a main artery that flows through the town Washtenaw Huron, sidewalks, infrastructure, now bike transportation. All of this is linked together. Major hospital system that everyone is familiar with. And that is shared by both communities the airport it's used for freight, for business, it's claimed basically by both communities using that facility as being a historic thing. And when this whole effort started, the statement was that communities of interest would not be divided up. If you look at the house maps, they do, in fact, divide up the area. Ypsilanti is off to the side. City of Ann Arbor split.

That would be very frustrating I feel.

Basically going to vote.

And not having the ability to be represented in this effort.

So I'm asking you to consider it as an entire area.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 181, 182, 183 and 184.

>> 181.

>> I'm 182.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I'm sorry.

>> Looks like we don't have a 181.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 182.

>> I'm 182.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead.

>> I'm a Romaine immigrant, resident of Livingston County.

I'm satisfied with the maps drawn for Livingston County.

And in order for the Commission to live up to its name of being independent I urge you to resist any temptation to interfere with splitting the official communities of interest to achieve to reduce the efficiency gap or partisanship competitiveness.

I want to state clearly and loudly competitiveness is a duty that is not of this Commission.

It is on the shoulders of the political parties that compete for the minds and souls of each community of interest.

So let it stay with the political party and let them Judge their agenda and adjust their platforms to win the minds and soul of every community of interest.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 183.

>> Hi, Commission. My name is Mark.

I'm a member from Highland Park.

As a citizen I would like the new districts to be just and fair.

And not be biased towards anybody.

I appear to you to consider maps drawn by us.

The Commission will be about making the right decisions for Michigan.

Again as a citizen I will continue to follow the Commission about what will you do, the new districts should be for and by the people.

And not for corruption.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 184.

>> Yes, good evening.

I'm a lifelong resident of Detroit.

And a member of the Southfield Deltas, a local public service organization.

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We thank the Commission for undertaking this tremendous task.

I work in Southfield.

Service the community citizens and spend my Black dollars in the cities of Southfield and Detroit.

With that I urge you to keep the community of interest of Black citizens in Southfield, Lathrup village and Oak Park together in the Congressional and State Senate voting districts as proposed on our map 4744 and I also support map 6155.

I support proposed maps which join Southfield Lathrup village and other southern Oakland communities with parts of City of Detroit.

Although Detroit is in Wayne County, we share a border which means we share the community of interest and the criteria are more important under the redistricting rules than maintaining County lines.

This is my community.

Not a paper.

It's a livelihood.

It means resources, dollars and important cultural historical, economic, educational, social structures and family ties as a minority. We the minority population in Oakland County cannot be diluted by drawing a line.

Black representation and our common interests needs to be protected.

Answer this question when has drawing the lines solved the problem.

When has drawing a line been the answer? Lines divide, circles connect.

It's important to keep this community of interest intact.

Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 185, 186, 187, 188.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead, sir.

>> 186.

My name is Earl Burton I'm a lifelong resident of Detroit and I thank you for the hard work that you all are doing with the drawing the maps redistricting.

But to reiterate what someone said earlier there is work still to be done because the way the districts are drawn right now it favors one party.

I was raised to believe that our votes are important.

And I voted in every election I've been available to vote in.

My parents instilled this when they went to march on the Pettus Bridge because it's important and your vote matters and elections are supposed to reflect the will of the people.

That will be impossible to reflect the will of the people when one party gets fewer votes and has more seats.

That just doesn't make sense to me.

So I would appeal to you to please consider the maps that were drawn by promote the vote.

And their polar ID numbers P6782, P6783.

And P6784.

Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. What number are you sir.

>> 188.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead.

>> Good evening, Commissioner.

I live in Warren.

And I went to the last hearing in Detroit and also Warren hearing too.

I'm from Bangladesh and I'm a Bangladeshi community activist.

In Warren hearing from our community Bangladeshi community we had 30 people went there and we raised our voice about bringing all of us together.

We share the same community of interest, culture interest but it is very unfortunate to see Bangla Town, Hamtramck and like divided the final proposed map.

So I would request bring Bangla Town, Hamtramck and I'm talking about the House District 10 please bring Bangla Town and Hamtramck in District 10 so that would be nice because as we share the same culture so you know and also for the Senate

District you see the Senate District 8 proposal final proposal you put Madison Heights and instead of that it would be nice if you bring Warren in District 8.

Because it is dividing us.

So my humble request please listen.

Our community like everyone is very disappointing for seeing the proposal map.

Thank you so much for giving me time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. What number were you ma'am?

>> 189.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead.

>> Hello, my name is Andria hunter and I'm the president of the Randolph Detroit Down River chapter.

And Randolph is one of the pioneers of the 1965 voter rights act. So my organization has been around since 1965 to protect these acts.

One of the things about the voter rights act requires districts have opportunity to elect candidates of choice.

I understand trust me, that the VRA Commission consultant advised against packing districts by discouraging by a percentage.

However please understand the recommendation of 35% is kind of shacking.

As an electrician my math is my major.

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We know half is 50.

So even suggestion of 35 is ludicrous in nature.

I don't care what language it is.

The numbers are numbers.

So I recommend at least 65%.

In particular state maps where minority cities like Flint, Detroit and Metro Detroit, I'm also the president of the united steel workers local 1299 located in Down River of River Rouge on Ecorse.

And we also would like to see the Congressional maps that represent the down cities include the stretch where you have 8 mile.

Instead of going to Oakland Counties I would like our cities we need to have it go more to the Down River cities.

I would also like to just one more I would like to stress the point we are a minority majority District.

And have majority numerical numbers of minorities this would suffice the Constitution for partisan fairness thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Want to call again for 185 and 187 before we move on.

185 and 187.

190, 191, 192 and 193.

You can go ahead sir what number are you.

>> 190.

Yes, ma'am.

I'd like to thank the Commission for allowing us to speak today and address you today.

My name is Walter I represent the Detroit Metropolitan democratic club.

And plain and simple if I can just say that I think there is a common theme here today.

I think the board the Commission has to agree there is a common theme today.

And that theme is that the people that have spoke today and continue to speak represent diverse communities their own diverse communities.

What we are looking for is just fair maps, fair Districting maps.

That allow people to vote for individuals that actually represent their communities.

And how we do that is we work together and getting that done.

And we ask that you as the Commission when making a decision to final as a map that you keep the people involved.

Let us be a part of that if it boils down to a vote, you know we live in a democracy here we ask that you allow the people to stay involved and vote on what's important to us.

Thank you again Walter.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> Hi 192 my name is Addison and I want to thank the Commission for coming to Detroit to hear from Detroiters.

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I myself am native to the far east side of Detroit what is currently State Senate District 1 and the first House District.

I'm here today to advocate for the inclusion of the Grosse Pointes alongside the far east side of Detroit in the newly drawn districts.

Growing up on the border of Detroit and Grosse Pointe I know how much these two communities rely on each other and are interconnected.

While racially and economically different, many issues facing Detroiters are relevant to Grosse Pointers such as the recent basement flooding and grocery stores and hospitals and churches and a regional bus system are used by residents of both communities.

Over the last few decades the Two Cities worked to bridge historic divide and be interconnected thanks to the elected leadership we share.

The current District places Grosse Pointe alongside rural communities in Macomb County with whom they share little to no areas of interest.

I ask you revisit the maps to ensure the Wayne County including east side of Detroit the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods remain in the same District and the District does not extent up to marine City and Macomb County.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> Thank you for the opportunity to speak my name is Tim a lifelong resident of Michigan.

I currently reside in Hazel Park.

I'm with Michigan liberation.

We are a statewide 501C3 to end mass incarceration.

I spoke to an informed regular voter in Detroit who did not know we have municipal elections coming up in a few weeks.

The turnout at the last municipal election was 14%.

We do not need to put more barriers on the vote in Detroit and barriers from Detroiters having their voice being heard.

We need maps that are fair in order for us to be able to elect representatives that reflect our values so we can have a fighting chance to transform the criminal justice system, get driver's license for all, environmental Justice healthcare housing and a living wage and need a chance.

Every resident deserves an opportunity to make sure their voice and interest reaches Lansing and DC and stop the disenfranchisement of Detroit and Black voters.

I appeal to you to consider maps drawn by promote the vote portal ID numbers P6782, P6783 and P6784.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. What number were you sir?

>> 193.

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Do we have 191? 194, 195, 196, 197.

>> Greetings to the Commission.

Thank you for coming down to Detroit.

This is not our first time meeting.

My name is Cheryl Webb. And I'm the write-in candidate mayor for the City of Detroit.

The young man talked about boundaries.

These boundaries are the same boundaries that interfering with my campaign at this moment.

Not only are we dealing with division in our City with lines, with the redistricting maps.

We are also dealing with white chalk lines.

People are being murdered in our City.

There is a wave division in our City which is causing divisions in our families.

I'm one of those people that is affected by that division.

I just ask the committee listen to us.

We are the people.

I don't see the people that is here from Detroit, but I need everyone on this Commission to represent the City of Detroit.

And do not separate our cities.

We already separated.

We are already divided.

We need help.

The platform for me running for mayor is strengthening community in the community.

And it is the YOU that is in ITY.

Come on down to Detroit and live with us just for a couple of weeks.

And you will understand the passion that the citizens of the City of Detroit have.

We are all we have.

Those of us that work together.

We are all that we have.

When we were back in April, we submitted maps, I submitted maps, my daughter submitted maps, I didn't see any of those maps.

And I just ask that you guys relook at those maps that we considered for our districts and revisit the mapping for us in the City of Detroit.

And other cities that are like our cities.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> Good evening I'm 197.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

>> And I thank you for this opportunity to speak.

My name is Derek.

I'm the Vice Chair of the Detroit democratic.

I just want to say to you that I had an opportunity to take three of my sons for the first time to vote.

And each time I took my sons to go vote I've told them that this is your voice.

But I want to say to you you're not listening to us, our voice.

You have taken that voice away from us.

And by taking that voice away from us every single time that we the people have stepped up and come together to do something for our community, as committees such as this has done something wrong against us.

You're not representing us.

And I want to tell you this too.

As a retired police officer, I didn't selectively enforce law here.

Enforce law there.

I did it for everybody.

I fought for my community.

And I want you to fight for us.

That's it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 198, 199, 200 and 201.

>> Good evening.

I'm from Hamtramck and former councilman City of Hamtramck.

I'm here to thank you and concern about the Bangla Town.

I'm here to address some issues of Bangla Town.

Almost whole Bangla Town all the street except the Full Street you left behind in Bangla Town and Full and Herald and Prescott Street, Conant and up to Mound, my biggest concern.

And my request to you if you touch those districts, four places on the maps, we have a small gap from the Fourth Street from the Bangla Town.

If you add those streets to Bangla Town, the whole Bangla Town is combined.

And I put redistricting hearing first then campaign and running for City Council and the election I left the campaign behind and come to voice my concern about this issue.

Thank you very much to give me the opportunity to listen to me.

Thank you have a nice day.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> 201.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 198, 199, 200 and 201.

Go ahead 201.

>> I'm JJ I do assembly at the Ford Sterling Heights axle plant.

Excuse me if I'm not elbow Kent or prepared as the past couple times, I'm a tired UAW and worked 13 hours before coming in tonight because this is important to me.

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As someone spent countless hours for the drive to get this Commission together, I believe the new maps we are going to be stuck with for the next decade are more important than a race or seat that could be on the ballot.

Between now and the time that the districts are even official.

Or finalized.

There is too much at stake to not address some of the things that are still at fault with the maps we're dealing with.

Partisan data not only needs to be looked at but prioritized when drawing these maps. We need to use the data to ensure the lines being drawn are fair.

The goal here is not to take seats away from republicans and give them to democrats. It's to create competitive districts that represent the will of the voters.

If voters were literally 50/50 throughout the state elected representatives should be proportionate.

If our voters are 52% democrat our elected representatives should be proportionate and vice versa.

No party with only 48% of the voters should be given a very decisive majority of representatives in the Michigan house of representatives.

I have more type and I'm short on time and used to the two minutes still thanks for your time and thanks for the work you guys do.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 202, 203, 204 and 205.

>> 202.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead ma'am.

>> Mary waters from Detroit.

I'm a former State Representative.

I'm a breast cancer survivor. And I was Gretchen Whitmer former leader during my tenure in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Black women die more often 40% more than white women.

Your maps guaranty that we may not have Black state legislatures that can fight for medical dollars for us.

That means we will continue to die more while you look the other way.

I'm asking and pleading with you to please change those deadly wrong maps.

Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 203.

>> Sam 203 political director Michigan national action network founded by the Reverend Al Sharpton.

I'm a Vietnam war veteran.

Yesterday in D.C. I was arrested in an act of civil disobedience at the White House with Reverend Charles Williams, our Michigan National Action President, and a host of others individuals as fought to advance the freedom vote bill, which was blocked, as we

knew it would be today. And we were telling Joe Biden's assembly to end the filibuster. And my mother, a UAW member for over 40 years until her death would have been proud of what the UAW members have said and done here today.

But let me say this: We have heard the interpreters.

You need an interpreter to break down to you how white supremacy, racism works and how you and your operation are manifestation of the highest level of white supremacy and systemic racism in the nation right now in terms of how you come up with these jagged ass maps.

I say that with respect to the people total disrespect for your operation.

Again you need an interpreter break down white supremacy how it works.

I did the same issue in the 70s in Flint when gerrymandering occurred as state rep Floyd, he became the first Black state rep in Flint.

Your redistricting committee Commission must change those maps or we will what we say and mean no justice, no peace.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 204.

>> Good evening, Commissioners my name is Andrea.

I'm born raised and educated Detroiter.

I'm a local attorney.

I'm an adjunct law professor and a very proud member of executive Branch of Detroit NAACP.

I'm speaking to you today to remind you of the constitutional underpinnings that govern your work.

We appreciate your time.

But we do not appreciate the way the maps have been drawn to date.

We want to remind you that the 14th amendment prohibits legislatures and this Commission from engaging in both intentional and raced base voter dilution and racial sorting.

And the Voting Rights Act through the 15th amendment statutorily prohibits redistricting that results in racial vote dilution.

Regardless of the intent.

Regardless of the intent.

It is the impact and you have heard today the impact that will occur on various communities of color.

Especially the Detroit community.

The maps proposed thus far do not change for the Detroit community.

That in and of itself creates a desperate impact in the process of coming to the resolve of the maps that should be drawn.

You also have disproportionate partisan affects.

You should not vote for any map that creates a desperate impact on communities of color.

You should not vote for any map that creates a disproportionate advantage to any political party.

I know my time is up.

And I implore this Commission to take the time to get it right.

To use your vendors, your tools, otherwise you look forward to a robust and vigorous constitutional fight.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 205.

>> Thank you. Good evening, everyone. My name is Brittini Gordy and I am a union carpenter for Local 687 where we strive to have career opportunities for Detroit residents.

I'm representing one love global, a nonpartisan organization committed to disbanding poverty and injustice.

Detroit should be able to influence an equitable number of districts given its importance to the region. But that also means keeping Black voters together to ensure that Black representatives have a fair shot of being elected.

Please consider keeping higher than 45% of the electorate Blacks in any given District.

Thank you for your time and have a blessed day.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 206, 207, 208 and 209.

>> Good evening, everyone I would like to thank you all for being here today but more importantly thank you to the MICRC for providing this time.

I represent one love global today. However, I am a lifelong Detroiter.

Native of District 1.

Today I bring with me the concerns of our Detroiters, more importantly our youth when it comes to redistricting.

And in 2018 I volunteered countless hours with voter not politicians to organize, educate and engage an entire subset of young and first time voters to show up at the polls and bring this vision forward.

It is disheartening to know of the significant attempts taken by the opposition to undermine the power and ability of the people.

Detroit deserves better.

These maps should reflect our communities.

To ensure that Black representatives have a fair shot of being elected I ask that you consider keeping more than 45% of the electorate in any given District.

We can elevate both communities of interest.

And partisan fairness.

I urge you to strongly revisit maps submitted by promote the vote.

P6782, P6783 and P6784.

Thank you for your time. May peace, love and light be with you all.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. What number are you, sir? Go ahead.

>> Good evening my name is Steve.

I'm a lifetime Michigander and I'm an Asian American voter.

I respectfully ask for the new District lines provide representative that is reflective of its citizens and provide more opportunities for resources and access that come out of the legislative process and through their elective leaders.

I'm encouraging the Commission to consider that the promote the vote and fair map projects maps maintain both partisan fairness and preservation of communities of interest.

I'm also deeply concerned about the dilution of the Black vote in many of the House Districts.

As Asian Americans we understand that our well-being is connected to the well-being of other communities of color.

And we believe creating a VRA District with a Black voting age population below 40% is unacceptable.

By cracking Black voters in Detroit area districts it increases their votes are split increasing the likelihood that a 40% Black District could have a representative that is not preferred by that community.

Unfortunately in all three proposed House District maps Pine, Peach and Oak House District 2 has cracked and excluded a portion of the Asian American community of interest.

It should be included in house District 2.

Instead of where it is now in house District 10.

Drawing the map this way weakens our ability to elect reflective and responsive leadership.

I ask that the Commission follow the recommendations of the fair map project for the following adjacent districts.

P3746 and C3745 thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 210, 211, 212, and 213.

>> Good evening I'm a resident of Washtenaw County.

The independent data website 538 did analysis of the four Congressional maps that you have finalized.

And there is a big discrepancy in the efficiency gap.

But Jupiter and Maple on your website it says there is efficiency gap of .8% and it's actually 7.5%. 7.5% are getting their votes wasted. Pick Apple or Birch as these have a much, much, much smaller efficiency gap meaning we are more likely to have voters' votes heard.

Of all four, I'd rather you pick Birch because it has the most competitive districts available and meaning more members of Congress will have to listen to all voters and find compromise in Washington. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Anybody else in that grouping 209, 210, 211, 212? Okay we will move on to 213, 214, 215 and 216.

>> I don't believe 213 is here my name is Ken I'm 214.

My name is Ken citizen of Michigan for over 54 years.

I'm a current resident of Chester field Township.

I believe in our democracy and ask you to be fair in the redistricting of District 5 and ask that the State Senate 5 be left alone.

Your current draft shows State Senate District 5 consisting of Fraser rose village Eastpointe and portions of Macomb and Clinton Township.

Unfortunately this would force a state Senator to represent us in the 5 I've District to balance the needs and interest of suburban communities Macomb County with a few residents of Detroit.

I fear as well as we should all fear that the interests of the residents in Detroit would be entirely lost.

The state Senator would be forced to weigh opinions of a huge majority of his District. Against opinions of a smaller portion of the District.

And we all know how that is likely to go.

Those Detroit residents would be simply unrepresentative.

Redistricting would be a great disservice to the people of this region.

The City of Detroit and the voices of Macomb Township.

The City of Detroit should be given back its own voice.

And Macomb and Clinton Township should be kept as a whole.

And as community of interest within the fifth Senate District.

They share so much in common such as cultural, economic, library systems and health and safety and a combine tax.

Encourage this Commission to keep the needs of the people first and foremost and leave your political agenda out of the decision making process.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> Hi. Name is Craig Jones. I'm a resident of Macomb County.

The idea drawing for State Senate District five would include communities that lie within Macomb County bounds. As it stands right now District 5 includes two precincts in the City of Detroit.

As it is drawn now Macomb Township and Clinton Township have been split among themselves.

It is in the public interest that these communities are made whole and drawn together as they share community resources and space.

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Including all of Macomb Township and all of Clinton Township would restore fair representation among the community of interest.

It has been indicated by Commissioner on this panel that communities in Wayne County should not be diluted into districts of the surrounding Counties.

Wayne County is its own community of interest.

That should be represented equally and this current map disenfranchises these voters.

Thank you for being on the Commission and serving the state and I know it's difficult and I thank you for my time today.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> 216.

Thank you, Commissioners, for your challenging work and your stamina.

Mary Joe Johnson a resident of Grosse Pointe since 1969.

Retired American history and Government teacher.

And member of the nonpartisan League of Women Voters.

I want to emphasize that Detroit Grosse Pointe bonds are evident.

Grosse Pointe becoming more increasingly more racially integrated and diversified by the NAACP chapter in Harper Woods having many Grosse Pointe members racial diversity in virtually all public and independent schools in Grosse Pointe.

I and many Grosse Pointers consider Detroit our community.

We are not the old exclusive all white, red line Grosse Pointe but share loyalty to Detroit, commitment to the revival and social well-being.

We patronize Detroit restaurants and entertainment and volunteer in numerous Detroit community organizations. The Detroit historical museum. I volunteer at the Epiphany education literacy center which offers free tutoring and support the children's center along with many of my friends.

Finally the physical infrastructure of these communities was especially evident with the June 2021 slot.

We are one community and need to stay together to promote our common good of vital Detroit.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

217, 218, 219 and 220.

What number are you?

>> 218.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead 218.

>> Thank you.

My name is Veronica Adams a sincere thank you for the hard work on this important project.

No easy gig.

Michigan as you know is the most gerrymandered state in the United States.

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And according to the F.B.I. Michigan is also has the most hate groups.

Than any state in the union.

And that is not a coincidence.

Town and County lines are the last on your list of priorities.

Be aware of the relationship that communities of interest have to town and County lines and the red hearing that they represent.

Now I get that communities of color whose votes and votes have been gerrymandered into silence are concerned about the integrity of communities of interest.

So they have a voice.

But it's not the same everywhere in this state.

I live in Detroit but I'm from Holly.

The very white town.

But like most white towns there were social engineering that was involved for them to become that way.

Some downtowns exist and whites only after dark, and red lining has been another tool.

So, you know, and these communities would consider themselves to be communities of interests.

They have cultural homogeneity but one of their interests is to silence make sure that the voices of people of color are not included.

So, my gosh time is already up.

So dang I had some good stuff.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Go ahead sir and what number are you?

>> 219.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Szetela thank you.

>> I'm an attorney in special election law and executive member of Detroit NAACP.

I was very involved in the grass hoot movement to pass proposal two which established the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

In 2018 I spend my free time as a volunteer not for any party or candidate but as an advocate for the rights of all people in Michigan.

Educating citizens about an opportunity to change our elections in a way that would make politicians on both sides of the aisle more responsive to the public they are supposed to represent.

To do this 61% of Michiganders voted to put the power back where it belonged in the hands of the people in your hands as a Commission of regular citizens who just want to serve the fellow Michiganders and do what is fair and partial and transparent.

I still believe in you and the hope you represent.

It has not been easy, it's not easy for the first people to do something that has meaningful change and thank you for your service to us and being the first.

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As heard during public comment citizens want to see the maps and new boundaries not old, gerrymandered districts and should not vote to approve to a disproportionate party and get close to 0 on the partisan fairness score as possible and adhering to other important factors such as community of interest.

Not considering all these facts and data in your analysis unfortunately leading you down a path of disenfranchisement of communities of color despite your best interests.

Therefore we ask that you it's over 1% you still have work to do and I thank you for your time and your work and your effort in this regard. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. .

Hi, my name is Kelly.

I'm number 220.

Thank you so much for hearing my voice today.

I'm a new homeowner in cornerstone village a neighborhood that was heavily impacted by the June 26 and early July floods.

My biggest concern is creating partisan fair maps that move us towards a low efficiency gap so that we have representatives in Lansing bringing our struggles to office because of the resiliency of our future depends on it.

We are already seeing the effects of climate crisis and according to the new IPCC report we have entered a new climate era.

We really need representatives in office who will bring us towards a resilient future to combat all climate injustice here in Detroit and all of the communities who have been impacted like 48217.

And southwest Detroit.

Also communities of interest that really need to be kept together.

These maps will determine the health and safety of our communities and please make sure that no one's voice is erased.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. That concludes our in person public comment for the evening unless there is someone who missed their number being called, please speak up now or forever hold your peace.

All right at this point we are going to move to our remote public commentary.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide live remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so.

I will call on 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 a 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 last name.

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Also please note if you experience technical or audio issues or if we do not hear from you for 3-5 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 us at redistricting@Michigan.gov and we will help you troubleshoot so that you can participate during the next public comment period, at a later hearing or meeting. You will have 90 seconds to address the Commission.

Please conclude your remarks when you hear the 90 second timer going off.

You can go to the comment portal tool and share your comments in writing including specific areas of the map which you are speaking. The public comment tool is available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.

First in line to provide public comment George Davis.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Participants one and two are not present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Let's go to number three Gary Morehead.

>> Commission can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Super.

Thanks for all your patience today.

My name is Gary Morehead. I live in Auburn Hills. Thank you once again for your hard work and dedication.

I want to say I live in a voting rights District.

And expect to under the new maps too.

My current State House representative is a Black woman who could not be a better representative for me.

Even though I'm not Black.

Wayne and Oakland Counties are certified racially polarized.

When that is how people vote a District will reliably elect Black representatives without being majority Black.

When the Commission looks at the turn out data as it will if it adjusts the percentage up from 40 or so the districts will get a little wider and shorter around Detroit and also a little fewer.

They will still fan out from Detroit into the suburbs like Gratiot and Woodward but fewer representatives in the legislature and fewer democrats overall.

Politicians are worried that multiple Black candidates in primaries will split the primary vote.

And they caused the public to be worried about that.

The answer is ranked choice voting New York City just used it in their primary this summer with 13 candidates.

The Black population is under 25%.

But the winner was Black.

So Google it.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: A Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Mr. James Gallant.

>> Hello. This is James Gallant, Marquette Suicide Prevention Coalition. Do your due diligence concerning their separation of powers in our state. And you're constitutionally required oversight as a Commission house in the legislative Branch. I believe this Commission's proceedings have been hijacked by Executive Branch of State Government.

And for the benefit of the democratic party and to the detriment of the republican party.

In 2018 there were two reports from the Michigan house fiscal agency from Jenny McEnaney. And the first on October 16 stated if approved prop two would primarily amend Article four by changing the composition of the Commission charged with redistricting.

On October -- on November 2nd she wrote ballot two proposal of 2018 general election would effectively reinstate a version of the Commission on legislative apportionment described in the Constitution has not been operational since 1982.

Proposition two would revise the make-up of the state's apportionment Commission to from eight to 13 members, eight representing the two parties and five identifying as unaffiliated.

She cited the Michigan Supreme Court decision in the Voters Not Politicians counter complaint.

Then after the general election in 2018, under MCO168486, required the Secretary of State to transmit the certified language to the director of management and budget.

I would ask...

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line is Lori.

>> Sorry, can you hear me now?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Great. My name is Lori Lacy. I live in Huntington Woods. Today I ask you use nonpartisan fairness as a litmus test for finalizing maps.

I was a prop two volunteer because I believed it would lead to fair districts most proposed District maps still don't give voters a level playing field.

Our mothers told us the world is not fair.

Michigan voting districts can be.

In previous comments I likened your work to knitting despite your best intentions it's like a sweater with one arm longer than the other.

I ask you to even up the arms creating maps with near 0 efficiency gaps and to do this while still giving Michiganders of color the chance to elect people from their communities.

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In my area this means redrawing proposed districts that cut vertically across suburbs and into Detroit and creating more State House districts entirely within the City of Detroit.

Maps have been submitted like the AFLCIO and promote the vote maps that honor the Voting Rights Act recognize African/American communities of interest and still ensure nonpartisan fairness.

Please look to these maps.

What purpose is served by allowing outside maps to be submitted if those maps are not meant to be consulted and adopted.

As the first ever citizen Commissioners you have the privilege to show the country that Michigan plays fair by voting fair.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. .

Kim.

>> Thank you.

The initial draft of the maps that was put forward by the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission many argue that the maps that were drawn well will disenfranchise the Detroit residents splitting them up into several different districts and make it harder for the people of Detroit to elect the leaders that they want.

And this will also dilute our voting power here in Detroit.

We will possibly not have the chance to elect the leaders that actually understand the people of Detroit.

Understand the makeup.

Understand the needs of the citizens here.

And so that is my concern.

With these maps.

I am definitely concerned about diluting our voting power here.

As we know in several elections it came down to Wayne County and always came to what they did in Detroit.

And to dilute our voting power, this would decimate us.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Ethan P.

>> Good evening my name is Ethan a lifelong Michigander and a resident of Canton the.

As I reviewed the ten maps under consideration by the Commission, I continue to be concerned the lack of partisan fairness.

There has been a lot of discussion about balancing communities of interest with partisan fairness but I would like to emphasize these considerations are not mutually exclusive.

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We can and we must have districts that respect communities of interest and have close to 0 on partisan bias scores as possible.

There have been citizens and organizations that submitted maps that balance these very well.

I encourage you to review those maps for ideas on how to do this more effectively. And urge you not to approve any map that first doesn't neutralize the disproportionate advantage given to one party that is evident in every single one of the maps that are under consideration.

Thank you so much.

Have a great night.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have number nine?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

Felicia Banks.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Felicia if you can unmute yourself, you are free to address the Commission.

Felicia if you can unmute yourself, you are free to address the Commission.

It looks like Felicia may be experiencing technical difficulties and number 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 are not currently present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We will move on to Anthony.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Apologies that participant is not currently present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: What about 16?

>> Hi everyone.

I'm a Chester field Township resident.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can hear you go ahead.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: It looks like that participant has left the meeting.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay just let me know if he comes back in and we can.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can go back to him Nassar.

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Good evening my name is Nassar and I'm the chairman of the Arab American civil rights Commission.

I'm here addressing you on behalf of the Arab American community.

One of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission's highest priorities is to create districts which respect communities of interest.

The Arab American population in Metro Detroit is a quintessential and have a geographic area and share historic and cultural backgrounds and linked by a common interest and policy issues that impact voting and legislation.

The Voting Rights Act addresses discriminatory election rules to ensure that leg legislatures reflect the diversity of the local population.

Under the VRA minority Districts is be proposed as one tool towards that goal.

In creating an Arab American District in the Dearborn area is critical to giving advice to my community.

Arab Americans are a key community of interest.

Dearborn and Dearborn Heights should be kept together in both the state, Senate and the State House maps as they both have a large concentration of Arab Americans.

Dearborn and Dearborn Heights State Senate seat will allow unique issues of the community to be better addressed.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. I believe number 16 has rejoined, Mr. M.

>> Hi, can you all hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Excellent.

I'm a Chester field Township resident and I would like to talk about Macomb today.

For me I wanted to emphasize for all of you is in Macomb there is a huge difference between north Macomb and south Central Macomb.

I would consider north Macomb anything north of M59.

Those areas of interest have much different demographics and needs R versus south of M59 mount Clemens Clinton and others and south Central Macomb should stay out of northern Macomb and northern Macomb should stay out of the south.

When I spoke in earlier summer there need to be more partisan fairness, we voted this in 2018 and more votes to prop two than legalizing marijuana in the State of Michigan.

Please respect the people in this country and state.

Please respect the partisan fairness as well as Voting Rights Act.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> Hello, thank you for your time.

I'm a resident of east English village on the east side of Detroit.

My neighbors and I have submitted maps and made comments to this Commission previously.

Our ask was that our neighborhood east English village is kept with morning side and corner side village all on the east side of Detroit.

Unfortunately the State House maps did not reflect our interest.

Also one of the State Senate District had split our neighborhood into two.

Again I ask that the Commission keep the three neighborhoods on the east side of Detroit together.

I would also like to address that we are a part of the City of Detroit one of the largest minority majority cities in the nation.

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I expect the District in which I vote in is a reflection of the City that I live in.

And my neighbors.

So please consider respecting the municipal boundaries and County boundaries.

Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Jay Clark.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Jay Clark if you can unmute yourself are you are free to address the Commission.

>> Sorry can you hear me now.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> I'm Jennifer Clark and I've will in Rochester oops, I live in Rochester Hills.

I was going to speak specifically about each area of the Spruce map I disagreed with but realized the entire map of districts is nearly completely incorrect due to chief justice Roberts clearly forcing partisan metrics over community solidarity.

Communities of interest are really just big unique families a community has boundaries for a reason just like a family has last name.

That's why our collective last names are not Johnson or Smith.

We belong together where we have equal representation.

The Redistricting Commission is acting like a child protective services coming up, to split up your families when no one called them in the first place.

The Commission is non-VRA compliant and pulling your child away for you and swapping a child for a child that lives 20 miles away.

Someone once said one lie is enough to question a thousand troops and Voters Not Politicians promised our communities would not be split up in numerous media interviews and here, we are and I will go on a whim and say we were lied to.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. .

Roslyn.

>> Hello, I'm Roslyn good evening I'm a 25 year resident of Troy and want the Commissioners to know the Congressional Juniper is the best I've seen for Troy so far as it keeps Troy in Oakland County with other communities of interest.

So please use the Juniper map for Congressional District three.

As far as the maps for State Senate and State House go it appears to me and to many others that you've heard from today that many cities and neighborhoods are divided and many communities that have no common interests are combined.

I'm also very concerned that these maps are skewed to favor republicans and particularly will dilute the voices of Detroit residents and other communities of color.

The State Senate and house maps need to be redrawn for better representation.

For District 16 in the State Senate specifically I want to keep Troy whole and I ask that you also consider including all of Clawson and moving more west to include Birmingham and Beverly hills and take out Oakland Township altogether.

I urge you to please check for partisan fairness as our state needs and deserves a balance on unbiased map in compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

I know it's been a very long day for you and I thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Wendy Appleton.

>> Hello.

I'm Wendy Appleton and I live in Huntington Woods Michigan.

And I am talking to you today, thank you very much for the hard work you're doing.

But I feel that the maps that you have put out for review are not fair.

I believe that the party that win the most votes statewide should win the most representation and the most seats.

Your maps don't do that.

The expert on fairness working with you Dr. Handley has determined that the Michigan is a democratic leaning state.

But your maps all the maps you have created are republican leaning.

Which doesn't make sense if fairness is a priority.

Until you fix your maps, the unfairly ben -- they unfairly benefit republicans and your job is not done.

Fair maps must be drawn that don't benefit either party.

Maps that lean towards one side either side are not fair.

I would suggest that you guys look further than the maps you've created.

You could look at the maps that are from promote the vote.

They have put a priority on fairness.

As a criteria.

So that is it.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Faye B.

>> Hi good evening.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Good evening.

>> I want to thank the Commission for all their hard work they have been doing.

One of the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commissions highest priorities is to create districts with respect to the communities of interest of which they live in.

The Arab American population in Detroit is in the Dearborn and Dearborn Heights area and also in the surrounding Detroit and some of the surrounding areas.

We inhabit a geographical area.

We share historic and cultural backgrounds and are linked by common interests and public policy issues that impact voting and legislation.

The Voting Rights Act addressing discriminatory election rules to ensure that legislature reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of the local population.

Under the VRA minority opportunity districts can be proposed as one tool towards that goal and creating such an Arab American District in Dearborn and Dearborn Heights area is crucial to giving a voice to our community.

Arab Americans are a key community of interest for the large concentration.

The Commission needs to keep the Dearborn and Dearborn Heights Senate seat and the State House maps as they currently exist.

This will allow for a fair chance for Arab American community to elect an Arab to office. The proposed State House plan divides Dearborn and places the highest concentration of Arab American voters into a District with Detroit dividing our community of interest.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission do we have 25, Doreen.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Next in line is 24, Sue Hadden.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Sue Hadden, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We can see but we can't hear you, Sue.

>> Okay thank you I would like to thank the members of the Commission for their hard work and their attempt to create fair maps that respect the will of the Michigan voters. Thank you for not using the excuse that geography makes it too hard to draw fair maps but your work is not done and I know you know that.

We need to fix some of the maps.

I'd like to draw your attention to the maps from promote the vote.

That would be P6782, P6783, P6784.

These maps eliminate built in bias and wasted votes making sure that politicians are responsive to the communities that they represent. These maps also do not favor one political party over the other.

Let's be honest, no matter what party you are in you don't want to have maps manipulated to favor the opposite party.

Both have done it in the United States and it's not fair.

That is why voters voted for prop two.

Michiganers expect that the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the 14th and 15th amendments are honored and expect equal protection and one person equals one vote. The maps that promote the vote have put forward honor the laws with partisan fairness. Michigan is watching and I know you guys can do better.

Thank you for your hard work and thank you for this opportunity.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: You're welcome.

And thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number 26, James.

>> Hi sorry I had a difficulty there.

There surely is a place in Heaven for all of you.

I thank you for what you're doing.

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In 1995, in 1985 the year we founded my Arab American institute former mayor Mike Guido sent a tabloid to every home in the city with a headline addressing what he called the Arab problem. There were, he said, too many of them. They did not share our culture and they are ruining our darn good way of life.

Today we see Arab Americans revitalizing the City, creating hope for its future.

Majority of the City Council are Arab American, as are the police chief and its current State Representative.

It's the first time Dearborn has been represented by an Arab American.

Dividing the community at this time into three separate House Districts not only ignores the community as a community of interest, it's insulting and hurtful.

It ignores their contributions and struggles to overcome a history of discrimination in their shared legislative and policy interests.

Regrettably we are used to seeing it being cracked.

Two years ago the legislative maps were litigated in the Federal Court to break this in the past.

Michigan must so creating fair maps for all communities and including Dearborn, which is the intent of the voter rights act. Dearborn and surrounding areas should exist as a minority opportunity District recognizing the voices of nearly 100,000 Arab Americans living and working there thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line is 27, Judy Maiga.

>> Hi, can you hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, we can.

>> Hi Commissioners.

As a person who is very concerned with equity and representation for each voter, I have watched many of your meetings as they have occurred.

I fully empathize with all of you on the difficulty of meeting every constitutional requirement and drawing fair districts.

Avoiding the packing of democratic voters in Detroit, Dearborn and Ann Arbor among others was important.

But more important was not slicing up those districts so much that they watered down the voting power of Black or minority voters within those areas which unfortunately is exactly what happened.

Having watched the work of all of you and seeing firsthand that you did not have access to the tool on your map drawing software that analyzed partisan fairness until early October, I'm not surprised to see that the maps have failed in that area.

But sadly they have.

I don't hold any of you personally responsible for that.

A final map for the entire state that gives republicans an advantage for more seats with less voters statewide is a gerrymandered map.

It may be better than before.

But it is still gerrymandered.

As a brilliant commenter wrote on one of the maps a little gerrymandered is like being a little pregnant.

The Constitution requires 0 bias.

0.

I am not now nor have I ever been affiliated in any way with the AFLCIO but their maps could be inspirational, thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Brianna Cartwright.

>> Hello, oh, one second.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can hear you.

>> Sorry I did not realize there was a background to it.

Forgive that.

But good evening I'm Brianna Cartwright a resident of Oakland County.

I'm a member of the Southfield Deltas and we thank the Commission for undertaking this arduous task.

As a local public service organization we support keeping the community of interest of Black citizens in Southfield Lathrup Village and Oak Park together in the Congressional and State Senate voting districts as proposed on map C4774 which we submitted in September.

We also support the Commission's proposed maps which join Southfield, Lathrup village and other southern Oakland County communities with parts of the City of Detroit.

Although Detroit is in Wayne County, we share a border and community of interest criteria are more important under redistricting rules than maintaining County lines.

The community interests community, sorry, the community of interest shares important cultural, historical, economic, educational and family ties as a community.

As a minority population Oakland County Black representation needs to be protected from becoming diluted.

As it relates to common interest of Black citizens in these communities.

It's important to keep this community of interest intact and we hope that the Commission realizes that we need this as a community and has to stay together.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Glenda.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Glenda you are unmuted and free to address the Commission.

>> Hello, I'm Glenda S a lifelong resident of the State of Michigan born, raised and educated in the City of Detroit.

Currently a resident of and precinct delegate for the City of Oak Park.

Thank you for volunteering to serve on the Commission.

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As our first independent Commissioners you have the distinct honor and privilege as well as the responsibility to create Congressional and state legislative maps that are fair for Michigan voters.

Michigan is a democratic leaning state the proposed maps lean republican.

And give them a disproportionate advantage.

Your job isn't done until this is fixed.

I ask that you use nonpartisan fairness as a litmus test for creating and approval final maps, we need fair maps that have efficiency gap as close as 0 look at AFLCIO fair maps project on ideas how to get partisan fairness.

We must have maps that reflect the interests of all our citizens.

We need more majority minority districts.

Do not disenfranchise the voters of Detroit or other African/American communities.

By breaking up their votes, there by diluting their voices.

We must all be equally and fairly represented.

Maps have been submitted that honor the Voting Rights Act.

Recognize American African/American communities of interest.

And still ensure nonpartisan fairness.

I urge you to use those maps as examples for improving the Commission's proposed maps.

Please give Michigan voters fair maps.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Marcus Walton.

>> My name is Marcus Walton I'm a special education teacher with the City of Detroit.

I just want to thank the Commission and the interpreters, I appreciate your hard work.

I was born in the City of Detroit.

I attended Detroit public schools.

I work in the City.

But I'm gravely concerned about the redistricting of the maps for the City of Detroit.

Democracy is about the voice of the people.

70% of the people in the City of Detroit are African/Americans.

Black vote Black voice.

However the maps that are drawn seem to be examples of diluting the political power of Black people.

Detroit is a community of interest.

Our schools. We lost them during emergency management.

We regained them.

The quality of water, effective of lead in Flint, Detroit, Benton Harbor. Affordable housing. There is housing in the City of Detroit that only Mike Gillich and Dan Gilbert can afford.

Commissioners, stay true to the value and the nature of democracy. It's all about representation. Stay true to the voters rights act of 1965 and stay true to the spirit of Detroit.

In conclusion, I know the maps are different, but consider the tree in the garden of Eden. It was called the tree of life. And hopefully it will bear the fruit of equality and fairness when it comes to representing the people of the City of Detroit.

Thank you for the opportunity.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. It looks like Wesley Watson and Mohammed Islam are not present; is that correct?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That is correct.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Doug.

>> Hi, I'm Doug F from Commerce Township.

I would like to thank you for undertaking this very difficult task.

I reviewed the maps of the area in which I live and find that in Commerce Township we are a very diverse suburban community.

And yet in most of the State Senate and house maps, we are lumped into a very rural location so that the diversity and the complexity of our town is diluted with the rural and primarily white voters out in the rural areas of Oakland County.

And in looking at the Congressional maps, they are kind of all over the place.

And I didn't see one that fairly represented the makeup of our community.

I would ask that you review the maps for partisan fairness and use that metric to redraw the maps in such a way they are fair for all residents of Commerce.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Lynn B.

>> Hello, can you hear me?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> I have worked in Detroit 15 years and a member of AIPA votes.

You may recognize me because I have spoken before in person and virtual occasions.

I'm here tonight to ask again that the Commission please keep the Bangladeshi and Muslim communities around Hamtramck together.

Community leader Rebecca Islam submitted an incredible special interest map specifically for this purpose of the around Bangla Town for reference it's map P1037.

I appreciate your time.

And your efforts to keep the Bangladeshi and Muslim communities together.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Colleen.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Colleen you are unmuted and free to address the Commission.

>> Okay thank you.

Hello Commissioners thank you for your time and hard work on this project.

My name is Colleen Crossey and live in Novi. My number is 37.

I learned some things from listening to other people.
And I've learned something called prison gerrymandering.
And I'm hoping that a person's -- I'm hoping that that will be corrected.
And I'm also -- I'm also hoping you will consider the other maps that have been drawn just like you consider people's input that they have given to date like the other maps like AFLCIO maps and things like that.
One of the things that I'm hoping is that the in Novi if you would keep like the City of Novi closer to the City of Farmington. We used to be part of Farmington.
And we have more in common with them than we do people on the west side.
So that's mainly the thing that I wanted to say to you today.
And thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Sarah.

>> Do you need the number.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can hear you.

>> Thank you I was trying to get my video and life together over here.

I want to say thank you first of all to the Commission as well as the interpreters.

And you know all of the hard work that you put into this process.

Thank you for giving people the opportunity to provide feedback.

I am a registered nurse and also a community advocate and a partner of APIA vote.

I'm asking you please for map P1037 submitted by Rebecca Islam to move the four blocks of the Bengali community into the area to keep Bangla Town together.

The Bangladesh community is strong and deserve to be united so their voices can be heard.

It's four blocks that are dividing the people.

And so moving that District together is only going to help keep them unified and keep them stronger.

And so I'm super grateful for your time.

Thank you for listening and just like in another arm you know to echo what other people have said just really doing our absolute best to have equity in this process and fairness for everyone from you know racial, economic and also political stand points.

Because we are all really trusting you to do what's fair for all of us.

And so please keep in mind that you know, us is a very big word.

And so taking what everyone is having to say to heart when you're making these drawings, thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Flora.

>> Good evening I'm flora and a rose village resident I'm here today because I believe there are flaws in your redistricting.

These maps will not be redrawn for another ten years so it's vital you fix these problems now to ensure fairness in future elections.

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The districts you drew for Detroit could license to disenfranchise of communities of color.

You have not given it consideration and cracked Detroit in order to create majority white VRA districts.

This weakens minority voices which already have been silenced.

The Voting Rights Act is meant to help voters of color elect representatives of their choice so they can make a difference in the legislature.

But this is impossible when the maps are unfair. Additionally all of your maps lean republican.

Dr. Handley your experts saying Michigan is a democratic leaning state and should not vote to approve a map for a disproportionate to a party.

The Constitution requires partisan fairness you can do this respecting communities of interest.

Citizens and organizations have submitted maps to your portal that do both so you have the ability to do the same by cracking Black communities in Detroit and tilting to one political party your maps fail on both counts.

It's more important to get this done right than to get it done fast.

For citizens of Detroit Flint Dearborn and all other communities of color I urge you to do better thank you for your hard work time and consideration on this issue.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. I'm showing that 40, 41 and 42 are not available; is that correct? All right let's move on to 43 Sonia Moore.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Looks like that participant, oh, never mine just one minute.

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Before I start, I give you this quote from John Lewis because it's why so many people are here speaking today when you see something that is not right not fair not just you have to speak up you have to is a something my name is Sonia Moore a proud resident of the State of Michigan 14 Congressional delicate a member of chapter Delta. The job of this Commission is very important.

So what you do will impact Michiganders for the next ten years.

So it's important you get the maps drawn correctly, not fast.

The maps presented will negate the minority vote and violate the Voting Rights Act.

The Voting Rights Act is meant to help voters of color elect representatives of their choice so those representatives can make a difference.

Cracking Black communities and tilting the playing field towards one political party is not right.

Please do better for Detroit and Flint.

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For the last 20 years Black voters of Michigan have been denied their full political voice in Washington and Lansing biracial gerrymandering.

Now your proposed maps will continue that same type of voter suppression.

Finally I understand it's been a long day for all of you.

And many of you are multitasking while we are speaking.

But I ask you really listen to the citizens of Michigan.

I would ask this Commission to review and adopt the NAACP and promote the vote map 6834 which means all the Voting Rights Act criteria and ensure communities are kept together.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Kyle S.

>> Yes, hello so my name is Kyle S.

I'm a lifelong Michigander who was born and raised in Warren.

I just want to say sorry can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Oh, yes, so yes, my name is Kyle S I'm a lifelong Michigander born and raised in Warren and want to say I appreciate the hard work you are doing to redraw our District maps.

The work can be sophisticated and time some tonight but it's important it gets done and need maps that reflect partisan fairness because our current maps are severely lacking that.

I would like to give comment on how the City of Warren should be redrawn in regards to the State Senate.

Warren should not be divided in multiple State Senate districts like it's currently proposed. People living in Warren should have their voices heard since it's the third largest City in Michigan.

Warren is also home to important employers such as General Motors, the U.S. Army and Stellantis. I believe all of Warren should be in the same State Senate District and look at AFLCIO fair maps project for State Senate District 9 for more information.

Thank you so much for your time tonight.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Bonnie.

>> Hello, my name is Bonnie can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Okay there we go.

And I live in Royal Oak.

I'm here today to ask for fair maps and you would be happy to find out that I have been shortening my speech as I go along.

I worked on the campaign for proposal two.

I know why people signed the petitions.

And I know what the message was.

People want proportional representation.

Please draw maps that are fair using historical voting patterns.

Your maps are not fair currently.

I think you must be aware of that by now.

There are other maps that have been drawn that are more fair.

I would like to suggest in particular that you look at the promote the vote maps.

P6782.

P6783.

P6784.

To see maps that are fair and satisfy all other criteria including the RA districts and the prison gerrymandering.

These maps are supported by the NAACP, the League of Women Voters, the ACLU, access, APIA vote, and the Detroit Hispanic development league.

Because they are fair and balanced.

Thank you very much.

Have a great night.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Audrey Anderson.

>> Hi, MICRC. I'm addressing you because I'm deeply concerned about the proposed maps.

I understand this has been major work and a lot of time involved.

The proposed map appear incomplete-divisive and they effect lives family and community and the issues we care about such as criminal justice reform.

Prison gerrymandering.

Environmental justice, economic justice, schools childcare, fair job wages and more.

However I appeal to you to ensure we have State House and Senate districts that uphold Voting Rights Act and not regress back to racial gerrymandering that has occurred for decades.

I appeal to you to review your methodology and how the proposed maps were drawn.

I appeal to you to revisit legislative maps where one political party has unfair advantage.

I appeal to you to ensure over all partisan fairness.

We want equitable voting power and leaders that know us and represent our community.

I appeal to you to consider.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Maya Anthony.

>> Good evening are you able to hear me?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you.

>> My name is Maya Anthony I was born in Detroit.

One of the most integral cities in Michigan.

And I currently reside on the northwest side.

The first one I would like to make the fact there has not been enough hours allotted for attendees to speak.

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I wonder if this is by design because I signed up to speak virtually at this afternoon and no one who signed up was able to say anything at all so that process needs to be done better.

The bigger point I'd like to make today is the fact that Detroit deserves needs and has the right to choose and elect their own representatives who stand for racial equity, health and life stability for its residents.

We vote to demand a fair and flourishing quality of life for generations to come.

But in order to do that we must have fair maps from Detroit.

We must have fair representation when it comes to our legislature.

By practicing partisan fairness.

We need you all to look into the true definition of the Voting Rights Act because what you all are doing couldn't be further from equally protecting African/Americans and having a lawyer consult you all does not mean they truthfully or accurately know the way politics and elections work here in Detroit.

Consider Detroit Michigan and be respectful and considerate of our culture and the needs of the people of the City like our low wage earners and blue collar workers.

You're not practicing partisan fairness.

Get on track here.

You've got to look at.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Dr. Pamela Trotman.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant has left the meeting.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay Rema.

Oh, boy.

M.

>> Can you all hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Good evening my name is Rema. I'm with access representing my community of interest, the Arab American community. Access has been working for decades to add the Middle Eastern and North African category to the decennial census. However, this has not yet happened. And over and over again our communities are lumped in the white category despite this not representing our best interest or needs.

Beyond not being represented in the census, Arab Americans are not protected by the voter rights act. This has left us split in several districts.

In order to unpack neighboring communities, something that has been that is long overdue and preserve the voter rights act districts, VRA Districts. The Commission has used population from Dearborn and Dearborn Heights with no distinction in any variation of the individual and collective maps.

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This has created maps that split Dearborn and Dearborn Heights with a large population of Arab communities in several districts. If Middle East and north Africans were counted and protected by the VRA, this would not be possible.

When we are counted on the census under middle east and north African category and protected by the voter rights act, we need the Commission to ensure our needs are met by keeping our communities together.

Look to the house maps submitted that represent Dearborn and Dearborn Heights in the only way that is truly representative.

P6764 and P6762. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. We are going to go to Zach. And then I think we are going to take a recess for a few minutes.

>> Can we hear you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, we can.

>> Hello, my name is Zach and I lived in Ann Arbor my entire life. And would like to advocate for partisan fairness on behalf of all young Michiganders like myself.

As you know partisan fairness is one of the requirements set forth in the Constitution and almost all of your maps say the republicans significantly.

You must lower the efficiency gap and bring it as close to 0 as possible.

Michigan's partisan ship should be reflected in the legislature and your Directors should be drawn to achieve this.

For most of your State House maps Ann Arbor residents are unfairly packed into two house seats.

Wasting many of the votes Pine and Commissioner Szetela map split Ann Arbor three ways and I support the maps.

Your collaborative State Senate maps pack urban voters in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti together and they are close this proximity they each have their own distinct cultures so I urge the Commission to split the two cities.

All of these changes will help reduce the efficiency gap.

Additionally you must rethink your districts in Detroit as no State Senate State House or Congressional is majority African/American.

Drawing skinny districts from Detroit to the suburbs does not accurately reflect the people of Detroit or the voices of African/Americans thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Without objection we will take a ten-minute recess.

[Recess]

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Ready when you are pad damage Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: What was that, Sarah?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: As Chair of the Commission, I'm sorry Sarah say again.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: It's show time Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I call the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission back to order at 9:50 p.m.

Will the secretary please call the roll?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely. If you are attending remotely disclose your physical location. I will start with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Present from Reed City, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present;

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

I think Commissioner Orton was trying to finish where she was attending from.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Attending remotely from Battle Creek Michigan.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I'm attending presently from Detroit, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: 10 Commissioners are present.

And there is a quorum.

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

So we are picking up with remote public comment.

Is number 55 available? I'm not seeing him on the list.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: The next participant available is number 62.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, I can't talk sorry.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Mo you are unmuted and free to address the Commission Moe if you can hear me, you can unmute and address the Commission. If you are speaking right now, we cannot hear you.

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It looks like Moe is experiencing some technical difficulties.

The next participant is 64.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 64, Ezra.

>> This is Ezra joining virtually from Dearborn, Michigan.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can hear you go ahead.

>> Sorry did you get that?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you go ahead.

>> Hi, my name is Asraa and joining remotely from Dearborn Michigan.

Did you sorry did you want me to give my comment now.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, go ahead.

>> Okay, hi, my name is Asraa, joining from Dearborn, Michigan on behalf of access of my community of interest.

Growing up I watched the Arab American community growing up as a health advocate at the health and research center my community needs around health, substance use, diabetes, cancer and need to be addressed. Currently these are very specific health disparities that are not being confronted.

Please consider house maps P6764 and P6762 for Dearborn and Dearborn Heights.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Ms. Reinhardt, could you confirm that Bridgett is not available? Because I'm seeing her on the list. She was number 63.

I just don't want to skip her if she is waiting.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, it looks like number 63 is present.

>> Hello, hello.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can hear you.

>> I apologize we were having difficulties.

My name is Bridgett and I lived in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights for 41 years and part of the access social services department. And standing in front of you as a proud resident and advocate for my community of interest.

The Arab American community which is Arab American community the access department has three satellite offices, one in Dearborn, and southeast of Dearborn and Hamtramck. And it tends to be the primary point of entry for anyone seeking assistance.

Part of the services that we provide assistance in terms of communication and with local state and Federal entities and other service providers.

The access social services location focuses also on Hamtramck, Melvindale and the surrounding areas.

Through all the variations of collaborations and individual maps submitted includes Dearborn Heights and parts of Dearborn where there is a large community of Arab Americans and celebrates Melvindale from community of interest and is on the south

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part of Dearborn and large Arab and Yemeni community which access provides services for.

The needs of community in Melvindale are much more aligned than needs of the community in Dearborn.

Additionally during the recent flooding's we saw an impact of not having our communities unique needs properly represented.

Floods impact Arab Americans in Dearborn and.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Aman Mohammed.

>> Good evening. My name is Iman Mohammed. I'm a Yemeni American born and raised in Dearborn.

I'm here representing access and my community of interest.

My community is not represented in the census because we are categorized as white.

The issues that impact me and my community are not heard.

We face a number of specific issues such as barriers that reduce educational opportunities.

Our children need representation.

Please keep my Dearborn together and consider maps P6764 and P6762.

Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Lena.

>> Good evening.

Can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Hello, my name is Lena.

I'm here on behalf of access.

Representing my community of interest.

As some of you may already know the census for people to identify as Middle Eastern or north African.

This has affected my community in many areas.

Whether it's political representation to access the healthcare, the Arab American community simply is not counted.

We are even lost from funding of health and social services that are funded with at least \$675 billion in Federal money distributed annually to communities with the help of census data.

Access has 11 locations throughout the Metro Detroit area that serve Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Melvindale and Hamtramck communities.

As a resident of this community and the chief operating officer of our organization, I urge the Commission to take in account the Arab Americans originate from culturally, geographically, and religiously diverse country, embodying a multitude of experiences and narratives that cannot be distilled to a single experience.

While finalizing the maps for our community as a residents for the last 40 years of Dearborn and Dearborn Heights, I'd like you to remember between those lines there is a community of interest that has yet to be represented and recognized. And the Arab American community chose to be here because of our experiences, values and needs are interconnected.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: You are unmuted and free to address the Commission.

>> Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Okay, good evening, Commissioners.

I live in east Dearborn and I'm here on behalf of access representing my community of interest.

Over the last few years my community has been affected by climate change through a series of floods that have destroyed our communities businesses homes and livelihoods.

Floods impact Arab Americans in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, and Melvindale severely because families are living in multi-generational households and utilize basements as living spaces rather than storage space.

If we were in a District together, we would have representatives who would advocate for our unique needs maps P6764 and P6762 are the only maps that are representative of our community.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Hello, I'm an Iraqi immigrant I'm here on behalf of access representing my community of interest.

The vibrant Iraqi that I'm part of is also working through trauma of years.

Because of this trauma we have specific health language and educational needs.

Please keep my communities aligned and keep Arab Americans together.

As we share similar backgrounds and face similar challenges.

House maps P6764 and P6762 are the only maps that will keep our community together and properly represented.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Anissa.

>> Good evening can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Good evening my name is Anisa and it's a long evening so we very much appreciate your time I'm the director of youth and education T at access and currently over seeing workforce development services.

I'm speaking in that capacity as well as a lifelong resident of Dearborn with deep connections to the Detroit and Melvindale communities.

We serve thousands of Arab Americans in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Detroit and Melvindale.

The current maps both collaborative and individual include Dearborn Heights and parts of Dearborn.

However, it still separates Melvindale from the rest of the Arab American community of interest.

Melvindale borders south end of Dearborn and has a big Arab community.

The demographics and needs of Melvindale have changed drastically over the last decade and are much close to the demographics of Dearborn.

We know you have a tough job. But you're in one of the best positions to ensure that the children and their families residing in these communities are truly served in the best way.

I do hope that you seriously consider house maps P6764 and P6762 which keep both communities together.

Thank you very much for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Mary Murphy.

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Hi, my name is Mary Murphy and I live in Huntington Woods and I thank you for participating in the Commission in the long day.

I volunteered for Voters Not Politicians and promoted proposal two to eliminate gerrymandering by the republican party.

But I'm concerned about 8 out of 10 of your maps favor republican.

These maps have an efficiency gap of 5 to 7.5%.

Elections are won with a less a smaller efficiency gap.

And so continue to support republicans and gerrymandering.

Which is very disappointing.

I know you can do better.

Also two goals of the Commissions to have efficiency gap of close to 0.

And to have equal representation the democrats and republicans so we can have competitive racism in the Michigan legislature.

These maps do not meet these goals.

Maps need to be redrawn and if necessary, look at AFLCIO maps and promote the vote maps which may help getting us to efficiency gap of 0.

Also I'm concerned about the maps in the Detroit that they do not meet the Voters' Rights Act.

Detroit is a majority African/American City.

Detroit needs to have African/American representatives.

And they do not have their maps diluted by white voters in the suburbs and the neighboring cities. Voters have a voice. Give voices back to African American voters in Detroit. Keep Detroit together and not divided and diluted. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Jacqueline Jones.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Jacqueline if you can unmute yourself, you're free to address the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Jacqueline if you hear us if you are able to unmute yourself you are free to address the Commission.

It appears Jacqueline is experiencing technical difficulties.

We will move on to number 82.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Rubel.

>> Hello.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you.

>> Okay, hi good evening, everyone my name is Rubel and I'm here representing AKA vote Michigan and the Bangla Town community.

I know I only have 90 seconds to share my concern with you, but I'd like to take the first few seconds to appreciate you all and thank you for your hard work and to this impactful endeavor.

It's an understatement to say it's difficult to draw District maps for diverse state like Michigan.

But it needs to be done and it needs to be done fairly.

So that it will truly represents the will of the voters.

And fortunately we are allowing ourselves to live under a system where some lines could be drawn to either promote or marginalize communities of interest.

And historically these lines have been weaponized against communities of color to diminish their voices essentially turning them into second class citizens.

I would like to ask this Commission for the past and not oppress against minority communities.

With that said I would like the Commission to make a small modification to the House District map two to include the four Bangla Town strips that are in inexplicitly there and please look to the map C10671 for details. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Rebecca Islam.

>> Good evening, Commissioners are you able to hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we are.

>> Okay great.

I almost want to spend all of my 90 seconds expressing my gratitude and appreciation towards all of you.

I don't know how you all are doing it.

It's been super stressful for myself as a community organizer to keep up with all of this redistricting work and you all have been actually navigating this so if you don't hear enough then here, I am once again saying I really, really appreciate all of you.

And I also wanted to say a special thank you to Commissioner Eid, Commissioner MC and Commissioner Rebecca and I apologize if I'm for getting anyone else who has been instrumental in working towards a map that keeps the Bangla Town and Hamtramck in Detroit whole.

I know you have heard enough of API vote Michigan enough of Bangla Town so for one last time I just wanted to be correct you adjust those four blocks from House District 10 and put it into 2.

That would complete at least one COI map.

I am on promote the vote and agree the maps submitted cover the community so please do consider them and once again thank you all for your hard work.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> Hello.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you.

>> Hi, one second.

Okay you can hear me and see me.

Hi good evening and thank you so much for still being here my name is Fanta and I'm speaking on behalf of the African Bureau for immigration and social affairs and my Black immigrant communities of interest.

I'd like you to take a look at our communities of interest maps P4813, P4815, P4816 and P4817 all of which cannot be shared here today.

These maps represent the Black African immigrants we represent who are disproportionate underrepresented among the Black American brothers and sisters, one of our communities of interest maps Brightmoor for example is cut into three districts.

And this increases as community organizers in ensuring access to proper representation and resources for our communities.

The reason for this is because the districts you drew for Detroit are all the same.

Please look at areas that have natural connections such as Southfield and Redford and all the Metro Detroit cities to see where coalition districts can be built.

It is more important to get this done right than to get it done very fast.

Please be more thoughtful on how you draw Detroit and all the communities across the state.

Your role is crucial and reflecting communities of.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

>> Hello.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can hear you.

>> All right, hello.

Can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> All right sorry about that.

Good evening, Commissioners.

First of all I'd like to thank you all for what you are doing.

I've been watching all day what you guys are listening to and it's been a long day for you guys.

In fact, it's been a long year for you guys.

Thank you very much for doing that for us.

My name is Shamon and I live in Warren Michigan.

I have been to Detroit hearing.

And I have been to Warren hearing where we are a big group of people talking about the same map.

I'm going to give you my map ID, C6211.

Please take a look, C6211.

We were 50 people from Bangladesh American community from Hamtramck and Warren talking about the same map, same proposed map.

We are really disappointed because the very first map actually reflected our map that we proposed, but we thought we are done but actually then later on other people commented and that map was diverted to a different direction.

When we talk about committee of interest, we are close to 100,000 people living from Hamtramck to all the way up to Sterling Heights.

We are from same country most of them are from same District from Bangladesh.

We share the same community of interest.

Please put us in one particular map.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. President Buffington.

>> Can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Thank you for your time.

I'd like to apologize on all behalf of everyone in regards to the situation.

Everyone has been speaking on the gerrymandering.

The vehicle for this I believe is the census.

The pandemic caused a situation where the Census Bureau had an inaccurate count because they were short of individuals that did the initial census.

This is a community that is built upon a lot of diversity, a lot of lines.

You have people that were not in contact, not reachable because of the pandemic.

Initially I believe that you should follow the recommendation of the AFLCIO.

And also think about the map 6155, 6159, and also 6250.

This is supposed to be a democracy.

I hope that with all your hard work and everything that you have initially heard for a long period of time now and to come that you treat this as a democracy and not a monarchy.

Thank you for your time and your consideration and your hard work.

And you have a lot of hard work ahead of you.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Randa.

>> Good evening can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Hi, my name is Rhonda and live in north village I'm concerned about lines for House District 110. I'm asking the Commission to please keep Northville and Plymouth currently C35 together. These communities share resources such as fire departments. And we have common concerns especially when addressing the landfill nearby. It has taken us years to make any progress on this important environmental and health issue facing our community.

Northville is not a large community.

We only have 35,000 residents between the Township and City.

And should not be split into two.

And it should remain with Plymouth. We have far more in common with Plymouth than Farmington Hills. And urge you to reconsider the District lines and maps.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Chad King.

>> Good evening. My name is Chad King. I come humbly as a brother and servant of the chapter Rolf fraternity incorporated and behalf of the president, I bid you greetings. Alfa fraternity does not endorse any one candidate or party.

The Detroit is the lambda and apply to the ethos while the important and difficult work that the Commission does in recreating the Michigan Congressional and state legislature maps is appreciated the alfa must talk about recently approved map drafts that eliminate Black and Congressional districts.

Our District maps must be free of partisan influence however partisan fairness should not supersede or overshadow racial equity.

Of draft maps approved by the Commission none of the maps drawn by the Commission would include a Black voting age population above 50% two Congressional and more and a dozen state legislative districts part of the current maps are eliminated in the approved draft maps and will result in fewer Black elected officials in Lansing and Detroit and other parts of the State of Michigan.

The Detroit alfa call on the Commissioners of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to reconsider the draft map proposals and revisit other maps that have been drawn.

Maps from the NAACP probe the vote may serve as an example how it can be done in a racially equitable way. Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Brenda Hill.

>> Can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Yes, okay, can you see me.

I'm in the dark.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: It's a little dark but we can see you.

>> Yes, this has been so enlightening but also so troubling.

And since 1619 and before every time we have a Black folks have come up against white folks especially when it becomes -- when it's involving politics this has happened.

Detroit is the most populous City in the state. The most Black in this country.

And yet with your maps your choice of maps we have no representation.

We've heard phrases like Jim crow, racism, red lining, on and on and on.

And you should be ashamed.

I mean how dare you.

Bring us back to this point over 400 years after what we've been through.

And yet you have Black folks begging for you all to do the right thing.

Detroit has no business not having any representation by the numbers.

Now by right not just by might.

You all should do better.

Do the right thing.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Is participant 92 or I'm not sure if it's Casey Jones available? All right.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: If you can unmute yourself, you're free to address the Commission.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: It looks like she is experiencing technical difficulties so we will move on to our next participant.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Next participant is point Dexter is that right.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Next participate is 97.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Bob.

>> Can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Yes, good evening yeah, I really appreciate this your group here of with all the dedication and hard work.

And I'm representing here from Livonia, Michigan.

And I wanted to talk briefly about we have historically had the 19th House District.

And specifically looking at.

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We can go through all of your maps, all the other maps brought up about all these other groups and in my opinion, you started out right from the gate split up Livonia and you're splitting up west Detroit.

So you're trying to combine all these and use all these other maps and they are not making anybody from northwest Detroit happy.

And you're splitting up Livonia.

We have one community.

We have enough people here roughly 96,000.

We've been one precinct for many, many years.

And plus it's been 50 percentage republican 50 percentage democrat and the democrats have won the last two elections.

With moving them to District 17 and 14 majority of votes you will change that to 69-72% democrat voters in that District.

I feel that's definitely not fair to the Michigan Constitution of splitting up a group that has been together and then pushing it one to one side of the party.

And I'd like to talk with many of my counterparts here in the northwest Detroit that talked about how they would like to keep their communities together too.

And I think there is a lot of work to be done.

And I think you started right from the gate and split up Livonia thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. I don't see Kelly on here so is it now point Dexter?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Number 99 is next.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Is absent you said.

So number 99 I'm not sure if it's Janice point Dexter.

>> Hello.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you.

>> You can hear me okay thank you so much.

Cassy Jones is on the line and said you all skipped her.

She was 93 I believe.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, she is 92 but the name on the Zoom does not match the name on the list.

And, therefore, we can't promote her.

>> Okay my apologies do I have my allotted time still?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Absolutely.

>> Okay thank you.

Good evening first citizens Commission.

My name is point Dexter I'm a proud member activist and advocate for the LBGT.

I'm too familiar with the negative impacts and effects of low and/or eradicated representation.

I live in Southfield and I'm proud of my representative Kyra Bolden, my Senator Jeremy Moss.

Who lifts my interest as a community member as well as a taxpayer.

I also have worked for and still work heavily in the City of Detroit and Highland Park at the Ellis center where our beautiful congresswoman Rashida and our highly intelligent Senator Adam has not only time and time again proved their allyship but their staunch friendship in fighting and up lifting matters that matter to me and my community.

You all know what you were formed for and we just respectfully ask you continue to not only acknowledge that but also hear the resounding message of everyone who is gathered in this time and in this space this evening.

Thank you so much for allowing me to address the community and also be heard. God bless.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Janet Prang.

>> Hi, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Okay, my husband and I both volunteered hundreds of hours for Voters Not Politicians to get prop two on the ballot and passed.

This political activism was the first for us but we are passionate about promoting a politically level playing field and listened all day and heard people speak much more knowledgeable and eloquently about the maps than I can.

But I want to add my voice to previous speakers advocating by the map by promote the vote and AFLCIO.

They are good maps and you should consider them carefully.

I also wanted to echo online comments I read about my area of about moving my area of southern Commerce Township which borders Walled and Wolverine Lake into those communities and not with rural northern communities of Highland and White Lake.

I've read many analysis of your maps most agreeing the Congressional map may be acceptable, the Senate map needs a lot more work and you should throw out the house maps completely and start over.

I support the VRA guidelines for redistricting and want to emphasize that we demand maps with no partisan bias and less than a 1 percentage efficiency gap.

It's simple the party that win the most votes should also win the most seats.

Anything less than that is unacceptable.

I want to thank you for your time and efforts and encourage you not to settle.

Get it right the next decade of voting depends on it, thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Steve Prang.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve if you can unmute yourself, you are free to address the Commission.

Steve if you can hear me if you are able to unmute yourself you are free to address the Commission.

Looks like Steve may be experiencing audio issues so we can move on to our next participant number 108.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 108.

>> Good evening everyone can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> I'm a resident of Dearborn.

I'm an artist community organizer attorney and adjunct professor and teach on Arab American race and census related issues on inclusion.

As you know we Arab Americans are incorrectly labeled as white on the census.

We are rather, in fact, a community of color.

Michigan is home to the largest concentration of Arab Americans in the nation and Dearborn is our unofficial capitol home to the only Arab American national museum a number of Arab American political action groups and Chamber of Commerce and access.

When I addressed you in person in early September, I urged you not to make the mistake you have made by looking at us statistically white.

And splitting Dearborn three ways and splitting a specifically east Dearborn the critical mass of our population your maps run the real risk of yielding no Arab Americans in the State House of Michigan again the state where our population has the highest concentration anywhere in the nation.

The AFLCIO far maps project proposed State House maps for Dearborn and Dearborn heights that would protect our vote and voices.

AFL maps see us as a distinct community worthy of inclusion respect and a voice.

Unfortunately your maps fail in that important respect your proposed State House maps will likely represent in no representation in the State House.

Don't follow in the footsteps of those before you and do not erase the vibrant and very engaged Arab American community thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Monica Anthony.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair, Cassie Jones just joined the meeting.

She is 92.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Cassie Jones McBride.

>> All right can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Okay wonderful good evening my name is Cassie. I'm a social justice advocate.

A Black feminist a lifelong resident of the City of Detroit, a City that has undeniable strength and power and that is evident by the way the lines are drawn in an effort to reduce and dilute the power of the Black vote.

My health and safety cannot be articulated by those that are not privy to my lived experiences or by those who have a disregard for my interest.

My voice is my vote.

And taking the opportunity from me to elect the reflection of my identity it denied me the fundamental human right to have a say in my future and the future of those I love. Detroit is the Blackest City in the state.

And one of the Blackest cities in the country.

Instead of fearing our political power you should draw lines that would protect it.

Rest assured there is no way no matter how the lines are drawn we will be engaged and invested in this process.

Thank you so much for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Monica Anthony.

>> Oh, my gosh Monica Anthony for social justice and people empowerment.

The right to vote according to the late congressman John Lewis is precious almost sacred and the most powerful nonviolent tool or instrument in a democratic society.

We must use it, end quote.

The maps by the citizen Redistricting Commission would take away the tool of African/Americans in Detroit and reduce the impact of the Black vote and take away the representation of two Congressional districts.

We as a community have fought too long and too hard for the expansion of and empowerment with the African/American community to uphold our democracy.

Detroit must not become a victim of having its voting power diluted by cracking our District into fragments or putting it in an over bloated community with no impact outside of the designated District.

We believe the proposed maps violate the constitutional rights second two of the U.S. Constitution man mandates racial polarized districts must be drawn and we believe they should be redrawn to better represent the people of Detroit and to maintain at least our current representation.

Gerrymander practices have allowed politicians to choose their own borders.

We believe voters must select political leaders and want fair maps for the people of Detroit and we and freedom of institute want new maps drawn for Detroit voters thank you very much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much Lori Evans.

>> Can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Okay thank you.

Hi, my name is Lori events I was a captain for VMA and a precinct and delegate in Troy and overlook communities of interest and devalue our vote.

We worked hard in Troy to build a strong voter base across parties to strengthen our communities and the map of Elm and cherry for Senate and Apple and Maple for the Congress are completely wrong for community.

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Elm and cherry put us with Troy Township and north in common we are more aligned in terms of where we go for recreation shopping and service providers and even our school communities with Clawson and communities to the south and west of Troy. The map proposed by Commissioner Lange is close to being a fair State Senate map and Oakland and expecting growing AAIP community and should include Royal Oak and Madison Heights and not into Detroit.

Apple and Maple place us with Mack comb far to the east of us.

With whom we have absolutely nothing in common and would not give us fair representation.

These maps go too far in diluting the voice of Troy voters and pushing so far to the east and Juniper is the best of the trees and only existing map that should be considered. I'm disappointed the Commission did not use more of AFLCIO fair maps project or promote the vote project proposals and seem to be the strongest set of maps that address partisan fairness achieved low efficiency gap and recognized communities of interest.

I urge you to look at these as you reconsider maps for Michigan.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Paulette, compass.

>> Good evening. My name is Paulette. I'm a member of SEIU local one. I'm a janitor.

I work downtown Detroit.

I live in Detroit for 48 years.

SEIU members working leaders in the fight for 15 and a union.

And our allies will not stand by as our communities are carved up.

And our voices are weakened.

We will continue to speak out for fair Districting to make our communities whole and deliver what our families need for decades to come.

We deserve better.

We need better.

So do the work.

And I thank you.

Good night.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Jeffrey Robinson.

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Okay hello my name is Jeffrey Robinson and I'm a resident and educator in the City of Detroit and a member of the executive committee for the Detroit Branch NAACP. I address this committee on the need to reconsider and/or eliminate any redistricting maps that propose fewer Voting Rights Act districts.

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These districts need to be increased to ensure that the voice of historically underrepresented minorities are afforded the benefit of having the needs of their communities addressed in local state and Federal Government.

For the last 20 years Black voters in Michigan and specifically in the City of Detroit have been denied their full political voice in Washington and Lansing as a result of racially motivated and gerrymandered voting districts.

The political malfeasants of politicians who knowingly cracked and packed voting districts to favor minority political and economic interest over those of majority must be corrected by this committee.

The lived experiences of Detroit residents must be respected so the will of Michigan voters can be heard in all matters of the governance. The City of Detroit is much more than Voting Rights Acts District and deserve to be equitably funded and afforded the opportunity to improve the quality of life like all cities and communities initiatives. And improving the quality of life improves with the education.

Detroit school system has been devastated. And residents of Detroit deserve the proper political representation to correct this egregious wrong against the Detroit K-12 students. And I leave the committee with this thought? What good would the effort be putting in Michigan voting districts if the next generation of Michigan...

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. That concludes our public comment for today.

Without objection we will now have our Vice Chair Commissioner Rothhorn provide acknowledges. Hearing no objections, please proceed, Commissioner Rothhorn.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We want to acknowledge there is a great number of people who helped us put on this event.

This public hearing.

That is the League of Women Voters.

They have been volunteering at the registration public portal and MSU students volunteering and premier event tech with audio visual and TCF center and the stellar team facilitating this event and U of M students volunteering and Voters Not Politicians assisting with registration.

And it's still not too late to #show up speak up to assist the MICRC to #draw fair maps. Stay engaged through e-mail or text alerts.

Reach us the old fashion way through mail or picking up and call 1-8333-you-draw.

That is 1-833-968-3729 and you can reach us on Instagram, Facebook and submit comments ap www.Michigan.gov/MICRC.

We have a lot of gratitude.

A lot of appreciation to the audience for coming and turning back -- turning the floor, back to the Chair for adjournment.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: As 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.

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So moved motion made by Commissioner Witjes.

Seconded by Commissioner Kellom.

All in gave raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail the meeting is adjourned at 10:44 p.m.