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MICRC

10/21/21 1:00 pm Meeting/Public Hearing

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: As Chair of the Commission, we will bring the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 1:11 p.m.

This Zoom webinar is being live streamed on YouTube at Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting 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](mailto:Redistricting@Michigan.Gov) for additional viewing options or details on accessing language translation services for this meeting.

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This meeting is also being recorded and will be available at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 Today's meeting remotely please disclose during roll call you are attending remotely and where you are attending from, I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: present; attending from Detroit, Michigan.

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>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> 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](http://Michigan.gov/MICRC). I would now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda. So moved.

Motion made by Commissioner Witjes. Seconded by Lett. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion?

Commissioner Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I motion to add a discussion under agenda under 4B regarding meeting the weekend of October 30th and 31 and to move the debriefing session to 4C.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay we have a motion by Commissioner Vallette to add an item 4B which is discussion of the Saturday currently scheduled meeting next Saturday and move the debriefing session to C.

Is there a second? Seconded by Commission Orton.

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So we have is a motion and a second to amend the meeting agenda is there any discussion or debate on the motion to amend? To clarify we are adding agenda item 4B which is a discussion about the necessity of a Saturday meeting next week.

Seeing no discussion let's go ahead and vote on the amendment all in favor of the amendment please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the motion is adopted.

At this point we have motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended.

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

And agenda is adopted thank you everybody.

Prior to comment we have Commission business to cover this afternoon first on the agenda is approval of the meeting minutes from the October 6, 2021, meeting held in East Lansing.

These minutes have been provided to the Commission prior to the meeting, are there any edits? All right hearing there are no edits may we approve the minutes from October 6, 2021? Motion by Commissioner Witjes and seconded by Commissioner Lett all in favor raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the meeting minutes are adopted.

Next on agenda would be discussion of the Saturday we have a currently scheduled meeting for Saturday October 30th, Commissioner Vallette did you want to lead the discussion or Executive Director Hammersmith did you want to lead that discussion?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I'm happy to we had tentatively October 30th on the agenda in case the Commission felt they needed it.

You will have your sessions after the public hearings are over to deliberate about the maps that you will propose to be published.

And we will have three days then next week Wednesday through Friday, the following week we will have Monday through Friday meetings, so there are eight days currently on the calendar and the question is do you want to add a meeting on that 9th day? I can let you know that neither Kent nor John who have been doing most of our mapping are available that day.

And although Kim is willing to come in to cover that meeting so that is the background for that your staff just needs to know if you want a Saturday meeting so we can plan for that.

It's the Michigan, Michigan State football game will be in East Lansing during the week so obviously and we cannot stay there for a meeting and we have to find another location.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Any questions or discussion? Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Director Hammersmith I'm wondering we don't know if we will need that prime yet but we will know by the time we get there.

Can we not plan it for right now and then if we see at the end of our deliberation or in between that we are definitely going to need more time can we then readdress?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: We can certainly try but again we would have to book a location.

We would have to find hotel rooms.

We would also have to book the AV.

So it would depend on the availability of all of those to us and of course the later we wait the more difficult it will likely be.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Curry and Commissioner Eid and Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: My question is what time would you like to start on a Saturday if we had it on a Saturday.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: We would have to have 10:00 start time in order for the AV to have time to set up in the morning.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Mr. Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So if my recollection is correct that meeting actually was already approved and being planned.

Is that, in fact, correct?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I'm going to double check and I think it was on the schedule as a tentative hold.

Let me look here.

It says location and time to be determined, so I think it's on the schedule that you approved so if you don't want to meet that day you would have to let us know.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay so the meeting is approved.

We just have to find a date I mean a location which is fine.

We can figure that out.

I do think we should keep it on the schedule.

If we do if the opportunity presents itself to cancel the meeting if we don't need to have it, we can do that later.

But I say let's keep it on the schedule and you know have it there planned for if we do need that meeting date.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark and Commissioner Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I would suggest that not only do we keep it on the schedule but we have the meeting on October 30th.

We don't know what we have in front of us as far as changes.

And if we need to drop a day, we drop it at the end.

And I think that's the more appropriate thing to do.

I yield.

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark, I couldn't quite hear what you were saying could you make sure you are facing the microphone when you are speaking, I was having a hard time understanding you. Could you repeat what you just said.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Let me repeat it.

Not only should we schedule it, but I think we should also have the meeting on October 30th.

And I know it's inconvenience for some people but if we need to drop a day because we don't know what the workload is ahead of us, drop a day at the end, which I think is November 5th.

And that way we have the time planned out and appropriately.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: General Counsel did you have a comment? I thought I saw your hand up at one point.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much Madam Chair and good afternoon to the Commission.

I was going to raise what Commissioner Eid raised and was not aware it was being discussed but the Commission I believe did vote to have that meeting on that date from I believe it's on the agenda that so I think the Commission is discussing whether they want to retract it off the agenda just for clarity.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think what we are talking about is the location is imperative we have to book it and if we do have it at MSU it's going to be sincerely challenging and we don't have mappers.

So it is booked.

I agree with everyone we should do it.

We have to find a way to do it.

And I think it's been challenging at this point to understand where we can meet.

So I don't know if we need our communications director to help us with that or, yeah.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: My understanding is there was concern about having it at Michigan State because of the Michigan, Michigan State game and the traffic that involves.

As well as being able to continue to have people who are out of town stay at the hotel they have been staying at.

And that there was just concern about if we are going to have the meeting then it's likely going to have to be at a different location.

Which you know when we are at Michigan State it's free, when we are elsewhere there is a cost so on the weekend of the Michigan, Michigan State game find an alternative facility and also find alternative hotels.

And those were concerns that were being raised but I the communications and Outreach Director and add on that the complexity of not having our primary mappers

available so I think the question was being raised as to whether we should proceed with having that meeting or not.

Or you know honestly maybe consider having it someplace other than Lansing but that also brings in the complication of new hotels, new space, and so on and so forth, Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes, I would move that we take it off the schedule. We will have been in two public meetings Monday and Tuesday and we have I believe two follow-ups on Wednesday and Thursday.

And Friday.

We need a break.

I move we remove it from the schedule.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Motion by Commissioner Lett to remove the Saturday October 30th from the schedule.

I see Commissioner Lange is seconding that.

Any debate or discussion on the motion? Let's go ahead and vote in favor of removing the October 30th meeting that is currently scheduled from the calendar please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Nay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: By a vote of 9-3, the ayes prevail.

And the motion is adopted.

So the October 30th meeting will be cancelled.

All right moving on to our next agenda item, is the debriefing session without objection I'll ask Vice Chair Rothhorn to facilitate a debriefing from the previous hearing and discussion about whether any map changes that the Commissioners may wish to discuss during upcoming deliberations.

Please proceed Commissioner Rothhorn.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Chair Szetela.

Commissioners, this is our first debriefing session.

I do believe I wonder if our we want to look through how we want to debrief.

A review maybe appropriate, how do Commissioners feel? Do we want to just walk through what it looks like? Our debriefing? Or do we feel ready to debrief? Director Hammersmith, Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I move that we move directly to public comment.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I see lots of seconds, so.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Motioned by Commissioner Witjes and seconded by Commissioner Lett to move directly to public comment is there any comment or debate on the motion? Seeing none let's go ahead and vote all in favor of moving to not discuss debriefing right now and instead move directly to public comment please raise your hand and say aye.

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All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

By a vote of 11-1 the ayes prevail and we will go straight to public comment.

All right.

Without objection our host Commissioner will now provide a presentation.

Without objection please proceed Commissioner Rothhorn.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.

Hello Lansing.

And the region.

I know there is not just folks from Lansing here.

It's good to be here.

I live just a stone's throw away from here.

So welcome to the Lansing center and welcome to our second round of public hearings.

At the Lansing center.

Here is our agenda.

So on behalf of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission thank you so much for joining us today.

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

In 2018 as many of you worked for Michigan 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 we formed 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 the population.

The process of drawing redistrict lines is known as redistricting in Michigan there are 161 state Congressional State House districts need to be drawn for 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.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: At this point.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I went too far sorry.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: At this point without objection.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I have one more slide.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Openness transparency and engagement are part of the new redistricting process now you have an opportunity to ensure your voice and your community's voice is heard instead of politicians to choose to represent their interest Michigan residents can assist in developing the districts through the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission we need your assistance to #draw fair maps.

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I'll turn it over now to Director Hammersmith.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Without objection Director Hammersmith will now provide a brief presentation about the public hearing. Hearing no objection please proceed Director Hammersmith.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you so much. Happy to be here today and I'm happy that we are having people come out to give your public comment.

Thanks so much for being here.

Per the Michigan Constitution there are three reasons that we have public hearings. One is to solicit your comments public comments regarding the proposed 161 districts. Two, each proposed plan has to include the census data, a map and a legal description and our Constitution requires five public hearings.

We are looking for comments on the 13 Congressional, 110 house and 38 Senate districts.

And on our website, you can find all of the draft plans that are -- have been published for you to see.

Our website is [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC).

Currently there are 20 proposed draft maps.

There are ten that have been proposed as collaborative maps.

These have been drawn by the entire Commission in open meetings.

And there are also ten individual maps.

So Commissioners Clark, Eid, Lange and Szetela and, Orton have submitted maps for various types of plans.

The redistricting criteria are listed in the Constitution.

They are listed in rank order.

So first we have to comply with equal population and the Federal Voting Rights Act.

These are the Federal criteria that usurp the Michigan law and are the very first we have to follow.

Secondly the districts have to be geographically contiguous.

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

The fourth and fifth don't allow any disproportionate advantage to a political party or favor or disfavor to an incumbent official or a candidate for office.

Six reflect the consideration of City County and Township boundaries and 7th be reasonably compact.

The process includes first ensuring that the maps are tested and published. So after the five public hearings there will be eight days of deliberations among the Commissioners where they decide which proposed maps that they will choose to put forth for the public.

Those maps will be tested.

The Constitution is very clear about the process for this.

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Before adopting a plan, they have to do that.

Before and they have to provide for 45 days of public comment.

So the goal is to have these plans determined by the 5th of November.

So our mappers and the center for shared solutions can publish the maps during that following week.

And by November 14 to start the 45 days of public comment.

What that means is the Commission can then come back and vote on final maps on December 30th.

And the maps will become law 60 days after publication.

The Michigan Supreme Court does have the jurisdiction over the process of the maps and they may review any challenges to the maps.

If they find there is a plan that does not comply with the Constitution, they will send the work back to the Commission.

Again to draw maps that comply with the Constitution.

So the MICRC is the only body that can create and adopt the maps for Michigan's Congressional house and Senate districts.

Next, I'd like to welcome General Counsel Julianne Pastula to talk a little bit about the public hearing guidelines.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much Executive Director Hammersmith. Good afternoon, Lansing.

I would like to provide the public comment guidelines for today's public hearing.

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 begin when you start speaking.

You may not yield your time to another speaker.

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

If any person disrupts the orderly progress of this meeting or refuses to comply with applicable MICRC guidelines and rules, the Chairperson may rule that person out of order and/or order their removal from this meeting.

Again, please provide public comment and/or submit your proposed maps in the Commission's public comment portal which is available at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC). We are looking forward to hearing from each and every one of you.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you General Counsel.

Without objection we will begin the public comment portion of our meeting.

Hearing no objection we will begin public comment.

Without objection we will now begin the public comment pertaining to agenda topics portion of our meeting. Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with the public comment pertaining to agenda topics.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide in person

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public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. Please step to the nearest microphone when I call your number. You will have 90 seconds to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

Go to the public comment tool and share in writing including specific areas of the map you are speaking. The public comment tool is available at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC) and there is a public comment station here today with volunteers to assist you in accessing the website if you would like assistance. Additionally if you have a time constraint and don't wish to wait, please use the public portal.

The first ones to address public comments are 1, 2, 3 and 4 and number one when you reach the microphone you may begin speaking.

>>.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Do we have number one? All right number two why don't you go ahead.

>> I'm Cheryl S and I'm from Washtenaw County.

I want to support fair and balanced mapping.

Washtenaw County districts have been gerrymandered for far too long.

I'm recommending that in the State Senate District Scio pits field Township and Saline be moved along with western Washtenaw County to join up with Jackson County.

There also need to be six House Districts in Washtenaw County.

To allow for 0 partisan bias.

These changes should make our State Senate and House Districts fair and balanced.

I'm supporting the AFLCIO fair maps project as they present that fair and balanced position that I believe in.

Thank you.

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

>> Good afternoon I'm Susan Gibson from Lenawee County I know this has become a daunting task for all of you and want to encourage you z as a concerned citizen of Michigan do not fall prey to interest groups that listen to the citizens you are here to serve.

When this was put forth it was promised that communities of interest would be respected.

The communities of interest would be kept together so that they are represented properly.

Other than districts having equal population and also being geographically contiguous, community of interest is the next highest criteria when mapping the districts.

The Constitution prohibits the Commission from splitting communities of interest into in the name of partisanship from the maps on your website I would like to say I support Elm, Pine and Maple.

Where Michigan citizens voted for Independent Redistricting Commission, they voted so they would have representation and honors their community.

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Please honor the community of interest that were submitted to the Commission throughout the spring and summer and end with one question what is the goal of the Commission? I submit that the highest goal is to make sure all communities get fair representation.

This leads to a healthy state and happy communities.

We have a beautiful state.

Please use your position to make yourself proud for job well done.

Thank you.

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

>> Hello, my name is William Asher I live in Royal Oak, please produce redistricting maps that are fair and reflect the will of the voters.

You're not beholden to any single political party and have the power to do that.

After the 2011 gerrymander the party that won the most votes statewide did not win the most seats in the State House of representatives.

In your three proposed State House maps that is still the case.

They all give an overwhelming majority to the minority party.

Please consider implementing the Michigan AFLCIO State House of representatives map.

By all measures it gives a fair majority to the party likely to win the most votes and it preserves VRA thresholds of majority Black populations.

Similarly two of your State Senate maps Spruce and Elm give a small majority to the minority political party and one cherry breaks even.

Again I refer you to the AFLCIO which produced a fair map for the states and likely have legislative results that meet voter expectations.

Finally your Birch map is the best of your proposed Congressional maps.

As it produces five likely democratic seats, six republican seats and two competitive seats.

I think you can do better though.

Since in all recent elections Michigananders voted mostly democratic statewide.

A non-gerrymandered map would fix our representation problem in Washington.

And send the delegation that reflects the will of Michigan's people thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. I'm going to call one more time for number one and see if we have a number one out there if not go to 5, 6, 7 and 8.

And number five when you reach the microphone you can start speaking.

>> Hello, I'm Tom from Haslett and I'm speaking in favor of maintaining the community of interest which is Lansing and East Lansing.

In 1907 President Theodore Roosevelt came to town to speak at MAC with the incorporation of the City of East Lansing which become necessary due to the growing

needs of the college and the fact that it straddled between Meridian and Lansing Township.

Since then my family and others considered Lansing and East Lansing of one community of interest where a person may live in say East Lansing and work in Lansing or vice versa.

We don't think of the neighboring area as an undiscovered country.

We think of it as one whole area.

Your proposed State Senate maps as someone has noted take a meat cleaver to our communities to the proper state Senator there would be one where you work and one for where you live.

Ingham the state capitol County has been mostly together in terms over legislative districts and as your maps are proposed this would require a massive and unnecessary reorientation for Ingham County residents unnecessary because Ingham has a diverse population which taken together can easily comprise its own State Senate District. So I'm urging and requesting you to keep Lansing and East Lansing community of interest together in one State Senate District.

On your final map.

Thank you very much.

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

>> Hi, my name is Mr. Jansen and live and work not only in Ingham but Clinton and reside in Washtenaw County.

My concern is in the house the way that you currently have divided things up you kind of compacted Lansing into just three when and gone north and south when I think you can go east and west and get a better representation.

And I'd like to see as far as the map that I like the most is AFLCIO.

Basically like I said I lived and worked here for the last 20 years with IBW local 665 Lansing Michigan and I think it would be the fairest way to get the most representation or getting a good representation for the people and that's all I have to say.

Thank you very much for your time.

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

>> I'm Wendy I live in Lenawee County.

The people of Michigan voted the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission so they would have representation that honors their community.

When you break apart communities arbitrarily focusing instead on partisan fairness or some other number you ignore the will of the voters.

If you want to balance the power between political parties, do it in a number of competitive seats.

Don't try to break up communities in the state to make every District 50/50.

Honor our communities of interest.

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Honor the community of interest that were submitted to the Commission throughout the spring and summer.

Communities of interest are a higher concentration priority than partisan fairness.

Thank you.

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

>> Good afternoon, Commission I'm Joseph Davis and in Clinton water Township and I'm an international rep that represents the entire State of Michigan.

I support the AFLCIO map program that they put together and worked on for more than a year.

Its mission was as this Commission was stated was to create a fair mapping system for the State of Michigan.

It endeavors to have as many districts that are as close to 0 so that the politicians do not choose their electorate but the electorate chooses the politicians.

I think that is the goal of this Commission.

I think it should be what you strive for.

And I think it's important that in an 83 Counties that we unpack the major politician or population areas.

And in the case of the Lansing we should have at least five districts on the house side.

And for myself I'm in the District that represents primarily St. Johns.

But yet my sons went to school at Waverly in Lansing Township.

My community of interest is in the Greater Lansing area.

And I think that will speak across the state.

Community of interest don't -- are not decided by County lines.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Numbers 9, 10, 11 and 12.

>> Good afternoon my name is Mike I'm from UAW local 602 I'm the president, local 602 is in Lansing Michigan.

Our facility is the Lansing Delta Township plant.

Over in Eaton County.

I live in Haslett Michigan in Ingham County.

I just wanted to come and speak a little bit.

We are here because Michigan citizens do not want partisan maps.

We want fair maps.

We voted for this Commission to create fair maps.

The proposed house maps represent protecting a partisan advantage and that would be enormous failure.

You can have fair maps that also comply with all of your other rules.

If it means you have to make big changes then make big changes like in Lansing, I think the brother who spoke before me five districts is about right.

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We have several areas that compacting them into a very partisan, a few groups is not a good idea.

Please don't let all your work be in vain.

I've come here and thanked you many times before and I will thank you again.

I don't envy your job thank you for what you are going to do and hope you can give us some fair districts.

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

>> Yes, my name is Sherri and I live in western Oakland County.

Thank you for your service.

Politically safe districts damage democracy.

In my House District when there is an open seat, the primary election of the predominant party is usually won by the most extreme candidate.

Putting in an office and until they are term limited out.

Our state rep doesn't host coffee hours, town halls or even send out a newsletter to his constituents his reelection is guaranteed and he is a no show at meet the candidate nights and spends very little on campaigning.

There is no accountability.

It's disheartening and creates cynicism on the part of citizens and maps should take election data into account.

Competitive districts require candidates to get out and meet the public and earn their vote not ride into office on the letter R or D.

Competitive districts will give us serious higher quality candidates and go to Lansing, to legislate on behalf of the people.

Not a political party.

Or special interest.

Thank you.

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

>> Thank you for having us. My name is Connie from Milford, Michigan.

I lived in Ann Arbor area for 30 years and the republicans there frequently don't run for office because they know they won't win.

Now I live in southwest earn Oakland County and the depts have the same problem.

Opposing voters in concentrated districts don't have to have their views considered by elected officials.

I remember in 2016 I was campaigning for my candidate, one fellow told me I'm not voting because it doesn't do any good.

There will always be people that don't vote for one reason or another.

But it shouldn't be because they feel their vote is meaningless.

My hope is that by making districts politically competitive our candidates and elected officials will have to be accountable for all of us and not just their chosen party.

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The majority of the seats in the state legislature and the Senate need to reflect the party that wins the majority of the votes overall.

Please put partisan fairness at the center of every District you draw.

Making districts politically balanced would encourage voters to make informed decisions when they vote and would lead to better representation for all Michiganders.

Ensuring partisan fairness ensures representative fairness.

Thank you.

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

>> On my tiptoes my name is Liz I also live in Milford Michigan.

I have quite a crew here.

When we were working on proposal two and talking with thousands of voters collecting thousands of signatures, it became very obvious that the partisanship of our maps was of great concern to most of the voters.

Any when you look at elections any position that does not require a line be drawn goes to one party.

Anything that required a line being drawn went to the other party for the most part.

And this was hugely concerning.

I also live in that safe District where my representative is so protected and has to do nothing to save his seat.

We need to make our districts competitive and representative of the vote across our state and that is not currently happening.

I would like to speak in favor of the AFLCIO fair maps project because I think they have done a fairly good job of taking that in consideration.

I love the concept of communities of interest and I think it is possible to do that.

But if we don't get rid of the partisanship within our maps, we are never going to be representative of what the voters in the state truly want.

Thank you for your effort.

This cannot be an easy job.

And I admire all of you for taking it on.

Thanks.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Numbers 13, 14, 15 and 16.

>> We have number 13? Go ahead.

>> Good afternoon.

I'm Cheryl Hayes Ingham County.

I was a door to door campaigner for proposal two, so I'm invested in the process as a voter.

A volunteer and also a pair of sneakers.

I support Congressional map Birch.

The State House District maps Peach and Pine are not fair.

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Currently Greater Lansing area has four districts.

The proposed maps pack one party into three districts.

Giving a disproportionate advantage to the other party.

I'd like to see Delta Township put back with Eaton County and create five districts for the Greater Lansing area.

I encourage you to consider 06677 so that districts are fair and consistent with proposal two.

Michigan voters are counting on you.

Thank you.

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

>> Hello, my name is Bridgett and I live many Washtenaw County.

Thank you for hearing my testimony and for your many hours of work on this Commission.

The draft maps are an improvement but still have an over 3% partisan tilt.

I ask the Commission to do better and aim for 0 partisan bias in our state overall.

There is still a lot of unpacking left to do in Washtenaw County.

In order to create better balanced maps that will lead our County in particular to 0 partisan bias.

Specifically I urge you to create six unpacked House Districts in Washtenaw County.

And for the Senate maps Washtenaw voters should be unpacked into three Senate districts.

That and combining western Washtenaw Townships including Scio Pittsfield and Saline with Jackson County would help promote more balanced Senate districts statewide.

Lastly the Voting Rights Act is extremely important and it's not being followed in Detroit.

I urge the Commission to listen to the people and bring maps into voting rights compliance in Detroit.

Thank you.

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

>> I'm Melanie Dewitt Township in Clinton County.

I canvassed door to door for proposal two in 2018.

The people I talked with overwhelmingly supported fairly drawn voting districts.

The redistricting maps proposed are an improvement over existing maps, but they are not yet as fair as they should be and can be.

I strongly support the Birch map because it keeps the Greater Lansing area together.

I sent a comprehensive list to you earlier about the many ways Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties comprise a community of interest.

Clinton County was in the 8th Congressional District with Ingham until 2010 when we were gerrymandered into the fourth District.

The Birch map will correct that.

The Commission's maps for the State House districts are not fair.

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In the Greater Lansing area, the most democratic parts of Eaton County Delta Township and parts of the City of Lansing are packed into a District with Ingham County.

I urge you to adopt the map from comment ID06677 which moves Delta Township and the portion of the City of Lansing which is in Eaton County back into an Eaton County District.

That approach will create fair competitive districts.

Proposal two provided for a more transparent redistricting process and that has been refreshing.

We are also counting on you to create District maps that are fair, thank you.

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

>> My name is Timothy I'm a resident of Washtenaw County.

Thank you for the opportunity to present public comments today.

The Commission must create maps that are fair and just from a partisan perspective.

This objective more than any other embodies the primary reason that the Commission exists.

It is the primary reason you were created and is of course in tried in the Michigan Constitution and the mission of the ICRC.

I strongly encourage the Commission to focuses on Pine cherry and Birch maps and disregard all other maps as far too broken effects.

Pine cherry and Birch maps should serve as the bias line going forward and working to access, live to improve on them from a partisan fairness perspective and no other change changes should reduce the statewide partisan measures.

To improve on Pine cherry and Birch maps consider promote the vote in addition to prioritizing partisan fairness seek to provide communities of interest.

Michigan diverse and evenly devoted electorate has the political spectrum.

We believe we need our voices heard thoroughfare and balanced maps that reflect the will of the people, make no mistake if this process completes with one political party having a distinct electoral you would have failed in the mission.

Thank you for taking on the challenge on behalf of democracy and all Michiganders thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Numbers 17, 18, 19 and 20.

>> And number 17 you can begin speaking when you are ready.

>> Hello, my name is Susan Andrews I lived in the Lansing's try County area for over 40 years.

First in Delta then in Meridian Township.

I signed the petition and voted for the amendment that created this Commission.

I am most concerned about the fairness of these maps.

Any District that is noncompetitive, unfairly gives a few primary voters, not the general public control.

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All your State House maps seem unfair in our try County.

You have packed Delta Township into an already democratic majority District.

Please fix this.

And make each try County District more competitive.

And make the statewide map fair as well.

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

>> Hi, I'm Chris Andrews from Haslett.

The try County is a unified Lansing region.

We recognize that in your Senate and Congressional maps.

Thank you the Birch for Congressional is the best one.

The house map is unfair.

I submitted a map in comment 06677 that solves that by creating the region as a unified region.

Democrats must be unpacked by returning Delta Township and the 80% democratic area of Lansing that's in Eaton County back into Eaton County.

Then you can divide Ingham County as you did in your Senate map but this time north and south.

This reinforces the unified region by connecting Lansing and East Lansing with Lansing suburbs and Clinton County.

The proposed draft maps that you've considered for the State House have no competitive seats.

Map 06677 creates several.

And it's fair, competitive and reflective of our region.

Thank you.

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

>> Sorry I was told to step up, I was number one.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead.

>> State Representative of House District one serving my last term.

I serve a District that includes Detroit Harper Woods Grosse Pointe Woods and Grosse Pointe shores.

While some of our suburban constituents were receptive many were not.

In fact, some of the racism that I endured was heart wrenching, one lady who I knocked on her door when she opened up her door to her surprise I was there and reached up and locked her door as if I was there to harm her with my entire name written on the front of my T-shirt.

There were other insulting comments on Facebook that I endured from a Grosse Pointe Facebook group.

So when given the option to vote for a white candidate in the same party as a Black one many some and many white voters will choose to vote for a white person.

And not only due to racism but as humans we gravitate to what is familiar to us.

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Once I was elected the racism didn't miraculously disappear.

I invited constituents to informative events where the response my staff received is I'll show you what I got from the colored representative Yancey before I permanently block her.

Perhaps she did not know she was responding to it.

Or when I did legislative walks with my white male staffer who was greeted with a smile whereas I got doors slammed in my face.

As a licensed attorney I'm clear on our laws in this state and majority districts for Detroit and other urban areas are absolutely necessary to comply with the Voters' Rights Act.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have number 19?

>> Hi, my name is Karen Andrews and lived in Clinton County all my life. For the State Senate District Ingham County should not be with Clinton County. The cities of Okemos, Lansing and East Lansing do not share community of interest with Clinton County.

Clinton County is a rural community with agricultural and farming as the common thread. Lansing and East Lansing should be kept together in their entirety.

They share public transit, 911 dispatch and active adult living communities.

In the State House please keep all of Clinton County together as all of our Townships are part of Clinton County regional educational service agency, KRESA and would ensure our collective education priorities.

In the Congressional District please be sure to keep Clinton County together so that our County's voice is not diluted as we share communities of interest with all of the Townships in Clinton County.

When all three Districts are mapped keep Clinton County and do not join Ingham to Clinton County because we do not share Community of Interest thank you.

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

>> Thank you.

My name is Nicholas Wayne I'm a resident of Ingham County and lived in Lansing since I was born during the turn of the millennium.

I'm sure from these public comments you've heard earlier you definitely heard complaints about fairness both on the racial and partisan front.

And after seeing all these maps that are proposed it is very clear that you clearly have not listened to them.

And I speak to you all as on this Commission please reject these maps save for the AFLCIO and Birch maps because this will affect our Michiganders are represented in the future.

And also the people here in the Lansing area will not stand for splitting us into multiple districts.

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We already had enough of it last decade.

That's all I want to say.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Numbers 21, 22, 23, and 24.

>> My name is dusty.

My given name a Matthew on the sign up form.

I live in Lansing and want to thank the Commissioners for your important work.

I urge you to adopt the Birch map for Congress because it is the most fair.

However, your maps for the State House are unfair.

Both for the Lansing region and statewide.

Here in the Lansing area it is unfair to put Delta Township in the Lansing portion of Eaton County into an Ingham County District.

This decision would pack the most democratic parts of Eaton County into an Ingham County District that is already democratic.

This outcome would create an unfair partisan advantage for republicans and would likely reduce the number of seats in the democratic try County area that could be represented by democrats.

This map would represent the type of gerrymandering that voters wanted the Commission to move away from.

Instead the Commission should follow the map from comment 06677.

It moves Delta Township in the Lansing portion of Eaton County back into an Eaton County District to unpack democrats and contains other provisions to ensure fair and competitive districts.

Overall the house map needs major changes to create the fair districts voters want and the Constitution requires.

So that the party with the most votes wins the most seats.

Thank you.

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

>> Is good afternoon.

My name is Joan I'm with the Michigan Nonprofit Association.

Earlier this year MNA launched initiative to mobilize non-profits to educate communities on Michigan's new redistricting process.

With equity and inclusivity at the forefront the main goal of our initiative is to reach populations that have been historically underrepresented and provide the necessary training, resources and tools so that everyone has the opportunity to participate.

This has not been an easy process to navigate yet our cohort of 38 non-profits representing communities of interest across the state has worked extremely hard to develop and submit narratives and maps gather feedback from their communities and offer testimony.

And still the draft proposed maps before us break their communities apart in many instances.

LBGT Detroit and Palmer Park with the most comments of any in the portal the Latino communities in southwest Detroit and Grand Rapids, API communities in Hamtramck, and the City of Flint and Detroit VRA districts have been diluted.

I urge you to take these communities of interest to heart.

And unless their voices are heard fair accurate and effective representation will not be achieved.

Thank you.

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

>> I am Deborah worth and I'm here because I ap pose the State House maps because they give a disproportionate partisan advantage to republicans.

I'm a true Mid-Michigander.

I grew up in Delta Township.

I now live if Dewitt which I don't think my condo is rural.

I'm a Waverly MSU Cooley graduate and I was the democratic candidate for fourth District Congress twice, 2012, 2016.

Each time I lost by 29.5 points.

In a gerrymandered District first I have never met my republican opponents.

Can you imagine so he doesn't care enough to show up to talk to the voters or your opponent. And Cook's report says if you are ten points or more in difference of the election results it's unwinnable that is their opinion and that is their business.

So you're cutoff from your own -- money.

Thirdly you don't get respect from your own party.

Not only did I not meet the opponents I did not meet the Chair.

He stood me up once and money which is worse than the two elections.

We are not giving you a cent or we will give you something and renege it so that is my experience running and that is the way it is right now.

So if you love your state and I know you do thank you all for being so patient and serving.

Would you ever run if you knew you had no chance to win in would you ever contribute money or time if there was no chance to win? Would you waste even your vote on a candidate who had no choice to win? Stop any District from having a point spread over ten points.

It's unwinnable.

It's unconstitutional.

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

>> Hello, Commissioners, my name is Lawrence.

I live in Scio Township just between Dexter and Ann Arbor.

You probably don't recall but I was one of the first people to speak at a hearing, your hearing in Jackson, first hearing.

And at that time I complained that my little portion of the Ann Arbor school District had been cracked off and I was voting with the people north of me in Brighton and Howell and meant I did not have people who I felt would do an adequate job of representing me in the Senate.

I'm probably one of the few people who will speak at this hearing to say I'm happy with the work that you have done.

All the maps for the State Senate draft plans the Elm the cherry the Spruce, I really appreciated the Commissioner Eid, Lange and Szetela offered their own take on what the Senate maps ought to look like.

All of them have fixed my problem.

I'm no longer voting with the arch conservatives of Howell.

I'm now at least even in maps that are split Ann Arbor I'm voting with Ann Arbor, right. So I wish that everyone were happy.

I watched the hearing yesterday.

And there were a lot of unhappy people at the TCF center.

Do what you can to make as many people satisfied with these maps as possible.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Numbers 25, 26, 27 and 28 and 25 feel free to start when you reach the microphone.

>> Thank you, Madam Chair.

My name is Aaron. I'm a 20 year resident of Novi in Oakland County and working with both democrats and republicans. It's my offer for a no in house districts 36 and 110. Virtually all of the proposed Novi House District violate the Voting Rights Act because they divide Novi representation across three Counties and diminish the voting power of the strong Asian American population.

These House Districts have a discriminatory impact by diluting the voting power of this community that plays a vital role in our City.

It makes sense to keep Novi whole with South Lyon lion Township or Wixom because they are seeing increase in population of these communities.

Novi itself consists of almost 42000 eligible voters 4 school districts and majority Asian population in our Novi schools.

Over the past year we have seen the partisan makeup of our making up a near 50/50 split of our City.

Both parties have prevailed in our elections.

The interests values and economics of southwestern suburban Oakland County have almost nothing in common with the interests of rural Washtenaw County which we have been placed in.

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Truth be told the proposed District 36 that my home is drawn into includes Townships and cities that I've never been to.

The Michigan Constitution tells this Commission to prioritize keeping communities of interest together.

Please do not allow Novi's natural partisan balance to be broke apart to balance the districts in other areas that do not share Novi's interest.

Thank you very much for your work.

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

>> I'm Howard.

I was the treasurer of Delta Township for 12 years and was on the Delta Township board of trustees for those years.

My residents, or my constituents were concerned about their roads, their dreams, their taxes.

I was concerned about collecting delinquent taxes.

I shared that concern with Eaton County treasurer.

Eaton County clerk.

We shared it with other Townships in Eaton County.

When our representative in the house of representatives was living in Eaton County, she understood our concerns.

We could go to her in the legislature.

We could explain what legislation had to be how it had to be changed or how it was being applied in Eaton County.

She could understand that.

Comment 06677 puts Eaton, their map that Birch map puts Delta Township back into Eaton County where it belongs.

Where we have shared interests.

And we have a common contact point in the legislature.

Please support the Birch map for Delta Township residents.

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

>> Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

My feeling is communities of interest should be the factor in determining the Congressional State Senate and State Representative districts.

Rural and farm life is much different than City life.

Why was Eaton County on this recent map divided into five State Representative districts? That should not be the case.

Eaton County is Eaton County and we need to have a representative representing the whole of Eaton County.

The people of Lansing and East Lansing have much different priorities than the people of Eaton, Barry Clinton Counties.

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Communities of interest should mean something when drawing districts please keep Eaton Barry and Clinton Counties together and keep Lansing and East Lansing together as one District for State Senate and representative.

I realize it would take maybe two State Senate and multiple State Representatives.

Like communities of interest should be kept together.

Likewise other proposed districts at every level are drawn by equal voter numbers versus communities of interest.

Nothing I have read about District formation mentions an equal number of democrat and equal number of republican voters in each District.

As I mentioned many times people in rural areas have different interests than people in cities.

And one more question, is the AFLCIO nonpartisan? Thank you very much.

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

>> Get hooked up here.

I wear this so often I don't even know what I look like anymore.

I'm from Oakland County.

My name is Randy stone.

The home of the fire raising dragon Congressional District.

I bring that up because if you look at the head of it, it's in Detroit.

If you look at the tail of it it's out in Howell, okay? What we have is different social, economic groups in each of these areas, okay? So what I'm trying to say is if you want a good idea of what each of these populations are like, is look at the school districts and see what kind of families are in each District.

They have a tendency to have the same characteristics.

Or there is a great deal of diverse characteristics.

So when you make your decisions, I think you should take that into consideration and never mind about the politics or it will take care of itself.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Were you number 28, sir? Or do we have -- it was 28, okay.

28, 29, 30, I'm sorry 29, 30, 31 and 32.

>> Hello, my name is Kyle Jones I live in the City of Lansing in Eaton County.

The maps that you have chosen are unfair.

They put all the dems of the Eaton County into like a single area in Lansing.

And this needs to be adjusted should be placed back into -- back, that is only fair.

You need to unpack the democrats as well.

I live in Lansing in Eaton County.

I frequently eat in Lansing area.

And I participate in activities in both Counties.

And I would like the maps to be redistricted -- properly redistricted.

Thank you.

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

>> Do we have number 30? 31?

>> Good afternoon.

My name is Maria.

I'm a retired GMUAW from local 652.

And presently I'm the chapter president for labor Council for Latin America advancement of Greater Lansing area.

Our chapter is a nonprofit nonpartisan organization.

And what we do is we share information throughout the City and through our neighbors of important issues.

But we only share information that are nonpartisan.

So I'm asking you that the Constitution requires partisan fairness.

You can do this while also respecting community of interest.

If you have to pick a Community of Interest to get a partisan fairness, follow the Constitution.

Partisan fairness is above local boundaries and compactness.

Communities of interest are not perfect rectangles okay maybe there are funny shapes or weird shapes for the area but why not have it you know set for the election party to elect.

Look at the AFLCIO fair maps project for ideas on how to get the partisan fairness.

I think it would help all of us and it will help our community that we can grow together as we know Lansing is a very good area to live in.

We have wonderful neighbors.

We can share.

And we can speak with each other.

And share opinions.

So I'm asking you to do the right thing.

Thank you very much.

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

>> Hi number 32 here Norm from Ingham County.

I've been involved in public service all my life currently and serve on the board of state canvassers.

Last month I testified on your State Senate map having Lansing and East Lansing in different State Senate seats.

These two communities share every possible Community of Interest factor you can imagine.

Yet they are not in the same State Senate seat as they have been since the 1870s.

Witnesses before me and after me spoke and today about how they want you to give them what they need and a partisanship way.

Give me a democrat seat or republican seat.

That is not your job.

Community of Interest is your priority and I implore you to follow the mandate you have in the Constitution and law.

The only reason the people want to split Lansing and East Lansing is to create two democrat states.

There is no other reason.

And I think you should recognize that and not follow the partisanship of that logic.

I hope you will remember what you're doing right now.

You will remember what you're doing right now the rest of your life.

And you will look back at it and reflect on it.

And I hope when you look at the mirror you can say that you did the right thing the hardest thing you worked the hardest to do the right thing follow the law, follow the Constitution and be proud of your actions. Of what you accomplish this year.

Thank you for serving.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 33, 34, 35, and 36.

>> Go ahead 33.

>> What do you do with this thing.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All you got to do is talk you got it, it's on.

>> Hello, my name is Linda.

And I am from part of Lansing that spills into Eaton County.

I'm glad to see the Commission is working on creating fair voting districts.

As I was one of many who collected signatures to put the issue on the ballot.

The map you have proposed for the State House is unfair.

You have packed the most democratic parts of Eaton County into Ingham County District.

Though you may not have intended it you have created one of the best examples of gerrymandering that I have seen.

Eaton County is a competitive County.

That has had both republican and democratic house reps.

The changes you want to make will destroy that.

You will have an in essence created a represent stronghold.

I support the map from commitment ID06677.

It moves Delta Township and the Lansing portion of Eaton County back into an Eaton County District.

This unpacks the cabal that your proposal would create.

The house map needs major changes to create the fair districts voters want and the Constitution requires.

Thank you.

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

>> Hi, my name is Joanne and I live in Ypsilanti Township.  
I've be a Michigander my entire life.  
And I agree with the AFLCIO fair maps project.  
I think that that needs to really be looked at.  
I canvassed for prop two religiously.  
And I'm so glad to see this Commission finally hear so that people can actually be heard.  
We can't continue to have gerrymandering any more.  
It literally just has to stop.  
It's a very racist and biased way of voting.  
And that's why people think their vote doesn't count.  
And everyone's vote should count.  
Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 35.  
>> Hello, my name sell say live in Eaton County/Lansing Michigan.  
I work in Ingham County.  
I travel daily between the Counties.  
At this time you have taken Delta Township and part of Lansing I live in to create a Lansing centered District in Ingham County.  
I do not believe putting the democrats into a full area is fair.  
You have created a gerrymandered District.  
I believe they should be corrected.  
I support the map of comment ID06677.  
It moves Delta Township in the Lansing part back into Eaton County.  
Thank you.  
Have a good day.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 36.  
>> Hi, my name is Patricia.  
And I am from Livonia, Michigan.  
I am a proud Michigander.  
Born and raised.  
And I am here to implore you to put aside any personal agendas that you may have.  
This is not about republican or democrat.  
This is about the people's right to vote.  
And for that vote to be counted.  
I have campaigned in the past and one of the saddest comments I've heard is that people will not vote because they said it will not make any difference.  
That is the -- that is not the purpose of our elections.  
Every vote needs to be not only heard but counted.  
If the popular vote for someone, that person should be the person that's elected.

And it shouldn't be, it shouldn't be based on where you live or I'm losing my train of thought.

It shouldn't be based on where you live or the party.

It's based on what the people want.

That's why people are politicians are voted into office.

So please be fair in your redistricting plans.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 36, 38, 39 and 40.

>> Number 37 when you reach the microphone feel free to go ahead and speak.

>> My name is Julia Lindsey from Branch County.

Thank you all for the time you have spent putting the different maps together and the opportunity to comment on them.

After studying the maps the Elm State Senate plan the Peach State House plan and the Maple Congressional plan look like they best represent the guidelines in the Michigan Constitution.

However even though they are the best of the updated maps, they do still need some revisions.

When you began this process, you did a better job on communities of interest.

But now there is a definite partisan advantage.

And these advantages divide a great many of these communities of interest that you earlier correctly took into account.

It is critical to note that the communities of interest do have a higher rank of consideration in the Michigan Constitution.

Especially when maps do already meet these partisan fairness guidelines.

I would also like the Commissioners to recognize there has been bipartisan dissatisfaction with the current maps.

So I'm asking that you return to the communities of interest which is possible to do as you also meet the requirements of your other criteria.

Thank you for serving the people of Michigan.

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

>> Hello, my name is rose cousin and I live here in Lansing, Michigan.

And I would like to reiterate some of the comments from that were said earlier.

I'd like you to consider the Birch Congressional map.

It seems to be the fairest one that they have come up with.

And I'd also like to ask you to unpack the Delta Township in with Ingham, move it back to Eaton County.

And please consider the map from comment ID06677.

As it seems to be fairly and equitably distributed.

Redistricting should be about fairness, not competition.

As the Constitution requires and thank you for all for doing your hard work.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 39.

>> Hi Dan Livingston County Genoa Township Brighton area I put up my community of interest up there on the screen and all those dots are all different places I've been to over the years in Livingston County where everything fits together.

And I want to for our area thank the Commission in particular Commissioner Witjes and Rothhorn for listening to our public comments in regard to Livingston County and keeping it together.

And it's something we all appreciate.

For going down the list on different maps, Congress, the collaborative maps have been -- I think are very good maps for Livingston County, keeps us together and puts us in a fair District that voted for Governor Whitmer, voted for president Trump and voted for President Biden.

It's a 50/50 District.

That everyone's vote will count there.

For State Senate I think we have a good map that keeps Livingston County together.

And for the house maps State House maps for our area are the collaborative maps are good there as well.

I do oppose a couple of those individual maps that split the Brighton area in particular and split Livingston County apart.

And I know some have talked earlier about the AFLCIO maps.

I oppose those.

They split our County in several portions and put us with Washtenaw County where we do not have anything in common thank you.

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

>> Hi name is Colin I'm a student at the Michigan State University here in Ingham County.

I got the opportunity to speak at the October 6th meeting.

I got the opportunity again as well to speak here which I appreciate.

Like many of my constituents beforehand they noted the cities of East Lansing and Lansing are communities of interest and have shared pretty much everything over the years.

And the Commission has a duty to keep those communities together.

In your Senate proposed maps Lansing and East Lansing have been separated for the first time in 150 years.

Lansing and East Lansing share a library system, a transit system hospital network and also share a convention and visitors Bureau.

They also share a mutual agreement in the fire chief and income tax sharing agreement of workers and residents of the respective cities and a Chamber of Commerce and also share an economy as well.

Before I leave here today, I have several different packets of research pertaining to this topic here at East Lansing and Lansing communities.

I was wondering if there is anybody on the board of Commissioners, I can hand this off to for you to further look at.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: You can hand it to our General Counsel in front here.

>> Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 41, 42, 43 and 44.

>> 41 you can go ahead.

>> Thank you.

I did want to thank you all for this difficult task of presenting the information to citizens. However, when I was going to speak on, I did want to address the fact that I have made several attempts to try to maneuver through the systems of the maps and making decisions and trying to see exactly what would be good for my particular area.

And I just wanted to let you know it is very frustrating.

And I'm a mill ground tech savvy person.

I've heard people that are very tech savvy are very frustrated with the whole process.

And I definitely know that the hardworking citizens who are concerned with the issues of our state and County and being fairly represented have very little ability to voice their concerns.

It appears most of the people here are involved in particular committees or people who have specific agendas that want to stand up for certain things.

So it is frustrating for just an average citizen like myself to be able to assess everything and put in my opinion that doesn't stand for this agenda or this agenda.

So thank you.

I will try over the next period of time to actually look.

My specific area of Jackson, some of the maps are like all into other Counties.

Our Jackson County is very County oriented, so splitting up our County would be not a good thing for me.

Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. I'd also like to point out that we do have interns and volunteers out front who are working with the public portal if you wanted to get some assistance there.

42.

>> Hello, my name is John Snyder and I am and have been a resident of Lansing, Michigan for the last decade.

I've also spent most of my formative years growing up in Fowlerville and Ingham County area as well.

I did want to thank you for the work that you guys are doing.

I know that it's hard and it is just I mean unimaginable.

So as I have been looking over the State House maps that have been drawn so far alongside my experiences of living here and in the state for so long, I do think that at the very least using East Lansing and Lansing as separate anchors will be important.

Both for keeping Community of Interest together and also building a strong sense of partisan fairness into the maps.

I don't know if I could stomach seeing clear majorities for any party for another ten years when every statewide election is won with such incredibly narrow margins.

It's I mean prop two was a miracle to me that it even came into existence and it's been fought so hard for.

And to not see something come out of that and to have to face the next ten years with the same would be heartbreaking.

To that end and to making Lansing feel or the whole State of Michigan feel like it's good representation, a good step in that direction is unpacking Lansing into five districts.

Thank you for your time.

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

Number 43.

>> Hello, my name is Nathaniel bills I live in Waverly Lansing suburb located in Delta Township.

And I'm a lifelong Michigander.

I appreciate the work being done to draw fair maps but I do think that some improvements could be made in that area. I appreciate that the State Senate districts for the Lansing and Grand Rapids areas have been unpacked in some proposed maps. I think those would go a long way in maintaining partisan fairness in terms of the overall Senate map.

And not do too much to divide Community of Interest.

However Lansing and East Lansing Delhi Meridian and Delta Townships desperately need to be unpacked in the State House map.

Basically what I'm saying is unpack the Lansing five.

Additionally I think the Kalamazoo area House Districts need to be unpacked to some extent as well.

I think the fair maps project has done a lot of great work to balance maintaining Community of Interest and maintaining partisan fairness as well.

And I think those would be a great model for the Commission.

Thank you.

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

>> Hi, I'm David Hopkinson, a volunteer with Voters Not Politicians. I made comments on your maps on the portal so what I have to say today is more big picture. Among the guidelines in the Constitution are that the maps are not to give advance to any party or office seeker.

And so that's one thing.

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I think you have not addressed sufficiently yet.

I empathize with the fact you have been put in a timeline by the way the last census was poorly administered.

I think the people that are opposed to this process as a whole will continue to try and interfere with it.

So to hell with all of those but for God's sakes don't create maps for people who support the process might go to Court over.

My own wish and it's not one of the guidelines in the Constitution there be competitive maps.

I'm a nonpartisan person.

But at the very least for the Lansing area I also support Chris Andrews as suggested amendments to 06677.

Taking the little squiggle of Delta Township out and putting it back in Eaton County.

Thanks a lot.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 45, 46, 47 and 48.

>> And 45 when you reach the microphone you can begin speaking.

>> Hello, thank you I'm Monica Schaffer from Williamstown Township to be honest I came as an informed citizen to sit back and listen just so that I could take information home on what was going on.

But as I looked at it, you know, we in Williams town Township we have a U pick patch and came from a family farm in Shiawassee County and I have to take and look at that, my state Senator right now represents us very well.

In the farming in the urban community even with our farmers markets with our roads with our school system.

And when you take a look at then I potentially could have a Senator that has East Lansing also, I listened to some of the people up here speak and I wonder why we do not have Lansing and East Lansing together.

They are the Community of Interest.

I was given this form when I came in here.

Equal population absolutely continuity is East Lansing and Lansing.

But then we have diverse populations community of interest.

I've heard so many people speak of Community of Interest.

Again Williams town Township Shiawassee we are urban and farming communities that need representation especially with the farm bill.

Everything that is going on East Lansing and Lansing they need their representation.

They need strong representation in the Senate.

And I just urge you to take a look at that.

Thank you so much.

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

>> Hello, my name is Marilyn Fox weighed from Delta Township the Waverly area. I've been in the Greater Lansing community all my life. First of all I want to thank you for what you have been doing. It has to be hard. And I campaigned for the redistricting. And I'm delighted that this is going forward. So thank you. I think your Birch map is great. Good job. Way better than what we've had. The Elm map, I would like to see the northern portion of Ingham and Eaton County that really encompasses the Greater Lansing area as that is a Community of Interest. Maybe not even following I know you've got population stuff to keep in mind, but putting East Lansing, that northern part together to me represents the Community of Interest better than just going with the County lines there. So that would be my comment on that. On the State House District the oak map I don't know. I don't love what you have done. I don't know if I've got an answer for that myself. So thanks again for all you do. I appreciate it.

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

>> Hello, my name is Bruce I live many Delta Township in Eaton County. I have spoken to you before. I want to thank you again for your work. Thank you also for responding to our concerns in consolidating Mid-Michigan into a Central single Congressional District with the Birch map. Appreciate that. I think that is probably going to be the extent of my comment. Thank you for your work. Keep swinging.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 48.

>> Do we have number 48? All right let's move on to 49, 50, 51 and 52. And 49 you can begin speaking when you reach the microphone. We have 49? 50? 51? What about 52? Sir what number are you.

>> 52.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead please.

>> All right, so I have the card so we can pull up map 227. Pine map.

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So what I'm going to show in District 1 if you go to the northern eastern part, Dexter, Euclid is cut the District line is cut along Lawton which is a Side Street.

So what that means.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Sorry you requested a map be pulled up, we can't see it yet.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: He said Pine right.

>> Yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Can we please bring up the Pine map for him? We will.

We will reset his time too.

>> Thank you.

And you said you wanted it zoomed in the Lansing area; is that correct?

>> No it's in the Detroit area District 1.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Detroit.

>> If you Zoom in Dexter Euclid and those streets Dexter and Whitney.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Just give us one second, please.

>> No problem.

All right if you go down a little bit.

You see where Zoom in you see where you go to Dexter and Euclid and you see how go over a little bit to the left.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Left or right.

>> Left go down a little bit and go south.

Right there where you see that little edge right there how it goes down to Lawton.

On in the orange District? On the edge of District one to the right.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: The green or orange or blue.

>> The orange so if you go up north where it says Wilderman park right there go south right there you see how it's cut Lawton so that is a Side Street.

It should go to a Main Street.

It's easier to organize, easier to describe the District and go to Lynn wood instead of being cut at Lawton.

So what that means is that means that on one side of the street you can be in one District on the other side of the street you could be not in that District.

Just right over there.

And also, I want to hold up the book again and reiterate I got this book from listening to your meetings and goes to show you people come with value and information.

So we can study and we don't have to take anybody on face value and then we can come back to our vendors and ask them is whether or not we right and thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 53, 54, 55 and 56.

>> H I I'm number 53.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

>> My name is Niki I'm a Lansing resident.

First of all I do want to thank you for your time and effort.

I did watch the hearing yesterday.

That was very long.

I'm sure it's not easy.

Over the past few years I've canvassed and worked for the census all over the Greater Lansing area.

I was able to really get an understanding and feeling for the whole try County region.

And we are very diverse economically and socially.

I have noticed on the maps that Lansing has lost a District in the Michigan house and I think that would be harmful to this community because we want a competitive area.

I can understand we want to prioritize Community of Interest but unpacking the Lansing into five districts would be more fair in the long-term.

I'm looking forward to seeing a more fair map in the future and thank you again for your time and effort.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 54.

>> Yes, good evening or I guess good afternoon but my name is Jonathan bird.

I live in just outside of Battle Creek Michigan Emmet Township but wanted to speak with you about our area and I lived in Calhoun County all my life.

I think that on your State House maps you guys have done a great job keeping Battle Creek and Albion together.

I think those two communities have a lot of similar interests and it's really important in the State House to keep those together.

And then the rest of the County I think should stick together and you guys should look to go south or west with the rest of remaining portion of Calhoun County.

The thing I wanted to speak to you guys most about is Battle Creek and Kalamazoo.

When it comes to Congressional maps, State Senate maps, folks in Battle Creek do not go to Lowell in Grand Rapids to do shopping or have any interest.

I think linking the City of Battle Creek closer with Kalamazoo or linking the City of Battle Creek or the Metropolitan area of Battle Creek with Lansing or suburbs of Lansing has a lot more in common than the current District currently has.

I really want to urge you guys to take a look at that.

I know we have Commissioners from Southwest Michigan.

They understand Battle Creek and Kalamazoo and it's important to keep those Metropolitan areas together.

Thank you for all you are doing and have a great rest of your day.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 54, number 55, 56.

>> Sorry could I ask a clarifying question.

I wanted to make sure, sir were you suggesting we keep Battle Creek and Kalamazoo together? Or Battle Creek and Lansing as a better alternative? Sorry, I just wanted to make sure I understood your comment.

>> Sure, so I would suggest either or.

You know think about the main corridors that go through both Battle Creek or go through Battle Creek, Battle Creek on I-94.

You can be to Lansing in 40 minutes.

You can be to Kalamazoo in 20.

If you guys are you know really intent on keeping the County of Kalamazoo together because of the population and how it works, I can understand that.

But if that is going to be the case, I would suggest finding a way to move Battle Creek along you know I-94 up I-69 because that is a very clear corridor.

You know, folks in Battle Creek go to Bellevue.

They go to Olivet and Charlotte and west Lansing to shop.

If you reference AFL fair maps project, they have a State Senate District that you know incorporates that corridor and I think that is valuable.

But on the Congressional side like Battle Creek and Kalamazoo share an airport.

We have so much in common and when you have the bigger districts like a Congressional District it just makes sense to put Battle Creek with Kalamazoo together thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for that clarification.

>>.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead ma'am.

>> Thank you I'm Amanda west.

I lived in the Lansing area for 20 years.

In East Lansing, Holt and Delta Township and now in Meridian Township.

My two boys have attended Waverly and Haslett schools.

They are currently in Haslett.

And my husband grew up and attended Holt schools so we are Lansing area.

And that entire time I've worked in the City of Lansing.

Each of those communities that I listed are perfectly capable of anchoring their own House Districts.

Each have their own communities of interest in their vibrant neighborhoods.

The local Governments the shopping districts and our robust school systems.

Please allow the Greater Lansing area to be fully represented by creating five districts in the region.

And to that point I applaud creating two Senate districts for the region.

Previous commenters referred to Lansing and East Lansing being drawn together for 150 years.

Yes, that's why we are here.

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Our districts should not look like they have for the last 150 years.

That is why we passed this constitutional amendment and look at it with fresh eyes it is time for the lines to be drawn differently and fairly.

One last point please take time to redraw the State House and the State Senate maps in Detroit.

As you heard yesterday Black Detroiters will have less representation under the current drafts.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Neither the State House or state Senate districts will be fair until Detroit is fixed thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Could you clarify were you 56? Okay 57 and 58.

>> Hi, my name is Larry Murphy and I live in Livingston County.

Until a year ago I lived in Washtenaw County.

And you're seeking to preserve Community of Interest and I can tell you having lived in both Counties that they are very culturally different.

They have different needs, values, interests that need representation.

Different opinions about things such as transit like roads versus public transit and different opinions on residential development and many other items.

So I'm asking you to keep Livingston and Washtenaw Counties separate for the State House District maps.

In particular I live in Green Oak Township which is the southeast corner of the County.

And I'm asking you to keep that as part of the rest of Livingston County.

I'm a fit for Livingston County and I just moved there a year ago and I'm just hoping I get representation that comes from Livingston County.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 58.

>> Hi, my name is Katherine I currently live in eastern Lansing.

And do all social equitable work with one love global.

As far as the Congressional maps most of them look pretty good.

Keeping the try County area together.

The Senate maps as well look good.

Understanding that given our current population it needs to be split but it matters how.

And as echoed earlier it needs Lansing and East Lansing need to be split.

In regards to the house maps, there is a sense of community connectiveness that needs to be expressed here as well as equitable voting.

So if we keep it the way it is, we have Black and Brown votes that get drown out especially democratic votes as well by republican votes.

We need to be sure we are not gerrymandering here as well as making it equitable for voters.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Is there anybody who has not had a chance to speak yet? Please approach the microphone.

>> I'm a member of the Lansing area and grew up on the east side of Detroit so this work right now is super intrinsic to my life and how it affects my students as an educator and activist and as somebody who does work in the community.

When we talk about equity and inclusion, we need to make sure they are drawn in an equitable way and has Black and brown votes regardless of the democratic party these people are in these spaces paying taxes who do not have a voice right now as the maps are drawn.

If we split East Lansing and Lansing, we will not have an equitable vote for Black and brown people in this area.

The maps themselves look pretty good and looked at the Senate maps and when we look at how they affect our lives and how voting powers work here in America we choose to strip ourselves away from the punitive systems that murder Black and brown people so right now U.S. and District community U.S. and people have the power to draw up these regions in these areas and have the power to work on equitable change. So when we see this equitable change, we see how it effects everyone daily.

The systems effect my life and my students and my future children so we really need to understand how these maps are drawn and how they affect us every day.

Outside of that we need to get rid of this idea that is a republicans idea of redrawing the districts so that way we can have more power in more power in the way that we vote in these districts.

The idea that is urban versus rural is explicitly racist and we stop that narrative.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Is there anyone else who has not had an opportunity to speak? All right well if we do not have anybody else who signed up to speak our remote does not typically start until 5:00 p.m.

So without objection I think we will take a break early.

Recess early.

And so it's 3:00 and unless there are any objections, we will take a recess and we will return back here at 5:00 p.m.

[ Recess ]

Do we have a hand up? Oh, Commissioner Wagner has a hand up.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I was going to say if we have virtual ready to go why can't we listen to that and then they won't be waiting all that long?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: The virtual do not log in until 5 so we don't have anyone on deck to go.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair if I may.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Ms. Reinhardt.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: The sign up for virtual public comment closes at 3:00 p.m. so many of the remote public comments have not received an e-mail containing the invite yet.

Because it just closed one minute ago.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you so in case you couldn't hear that clearly the virtual public comment period closes at 3:00 so it just closed and that is what triggers sending out the e-mail with the invite so the virtual participants don't have that yet and not anticipating to sign on right now anyway even if they did so we are going to recess early and we will come back at 5:00.

Rhonda did you have a question too?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Nope I was just making sure Commissioner Wagner's hand was seen.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay thank you all right everybody it's 3:02 p.m. we will come back at 5:00.

Thank you.

[ Recess ]

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Ready when you are Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: As the Chair of the Commission I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 5:06 p.m. for the purposes of the public watching and record I will turn to the Michigan Department of State to take note of the Commissioners present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: If you are attending remotely, please disclose during roll call you are attending remotely and reveal your physical location where you are attending from.

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

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present; attending remotely from Detroit, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

Thank you.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

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>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> 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: All Commissioners are present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you without objection our host Commissioner MC

Rothhorn will now provide a presentation.

Hearing no objection please proceed Commissioner Rothhorn.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Chair Szetela.

Welcome everyone to the Lansing center.

On behalf of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission thank you so much for joining us.

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

In 2018 Michigan 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 on proposal two in 2018.

I'm going to try to advance our slides here to right spot.

So you all can see this with me.

I think there is a lag.

I pressed it so many times.

Okay so this is where I want to be.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Rothhorn let me know when you want me to advance the slide.

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

The process of drawing District lines is known as redistricting.

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

For the firefighters 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 predicting process now you 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 and developing their districts through the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

We need your assistance to help us draw #fair maps.

Please Executive Director I'll turn it over to you.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Thank you Commissioner Rothhorn and welcome everybody to Lansing to the public hearing.

We are glad you are here.

A little bit about the public hearing.

Oops went too far.

This is our second round of public hearings.

As mandated by the Michigan Constitution so prop two did change the Constitution and gave the Commission explicit instructions in many areas.

In this round of public hearings the goals of the Commission are to solicit comments regarding the proposed 161 districts, 110 house, 38 Senate and 13 Congressional.

The Constitution says that each proposed plan has to include the census data, a map, and the legal description.

Those are all up on our website.

Michigan.gov/MICRC.

And also the Constitution requires five public hearings.

This is our second.

Tomorrow the Commission will be in Grand Rapids.

And Monday in Gaylord and Tuesday in Flint.

Currently there are 20 proposed draft maps on our website for viewing and for comments.

There are four Congressional, three State Senate and three State House maps that were drawn collaboratively and that was by the entire Commission in open meetings.

So during their meetings they drew these maps.

Additionally Commissioners were able to draw individual maps.

So ten individual maps were submitted.

There are four Congressional, three State Senate and three State House maps.

And Commissioners Eid, Szetela, Orton, Clark, yeah, and Lange all submitted maps as individual maps.

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As you likely know the Constitution also lists the redistricting criteria there in rank order. So first this Commission must follow the Federal guidelines.

And that includes equal population and adhering to the Voting Rights Act.

Secondly the districts have to be geographically contiguous.

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

Four and five are in regards to partisan issues, no disproportionate advantage to a political party or not to favor or disfavor an incumbent elected official or candidate for office.

The sixth criterion is to reflect consideration of County, City and Township boundaries and lastly these districts must be reasonably compact.

It's a pretty tall order.

The process for adapting maps includes so when the Commission gets to putting out the proposed maps after their deliberations that end November 5th, they will have to ensure that the maps are tested before they are published.

So they will test them to make sure that they meet the criteria in the Constitution.

After the maps are published, there will be 45 days for public comment.

And then after those 45 days, which should end if all goes according to our schedule on December 29th, the Commission can then meet on December 30th and it will require a majority vote to approve the house Senate, the house, the Senate and the Congressional maps.

So and that vote needs to include a majority but within that majority there have to be two members of each major party and two members who do not affiliate with either major party.

After the maps are adopted the supporting material and data will be published within 30 days and the maps will become law within 60 days after publication.

So lastly the entity that has the jurisdiction over the Commission and the maps is the Michigan Supreme Court.

This is also a part of the Constitutional amendment.

The Supreme Court can review at its discretion any challenges to the maps and if they find any maps don't meet the constitutional criteria, then they can send those maps back to this Commission to do more work.

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

So again thank you for being here.

And I will introduce our General Counsel, Julianne Pastula who will provide public hearing guidelines.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much Executive Director Hammersmith. Good evening my name is Julianne Pastula I'm General Counsel to the Commission. I'd like to welcome everybody we are excited to have you here. Briefly I'd like to discuss the public hearing and public comment guidelines.

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

Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

The timer will begin when you start speaking.

You may not yield your time to another speaker.

The Commission will receive in person public comments first.

Followed by remote public comment speakers.

If any person disrupts the orderly progress of the meeting or refuses to comply with applicable MICRC guidelines and rules, the Chairperson may rule that person out of order and/or order their removal from this meeting.

Please provide your public comment and/or submit proposed maps in the public comment portal which is available at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC).

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you General Counsel.

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

Hearing no objection we will provide with public comment.

Individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide in person public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so.

Please step to the nearest microphone when I call your number. You will have 90 seconds to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when you hear the timer.

And 90 seconds has ended.

We encourage you to go to the public comment tool to share in writing and include any specific areas of the map about you are speaking. The public comment tool is available at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC).

If you would like help accessing the website, please visit the public comment station which is outside the door where a volunteer will assist you.

Additionally if you have a time constraint or do not wish to wait you can use the public comment portal.

First in line to address the Commission we will pick up, we had numbers less than 58 at the first portion of our meeting and we had several people who were not here at the time and I will call those first and pick up with 48, 49, 50 or 51 here you can approach the microphone and 48 you can start speaking when you reach the microphone.

>> Good evening, Commission thanks for being here tonight and I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you.

My name is Jeremy.

I'm a UA officer, member of the association of plumbers and pipefitters here in Lansing Michigan.

I believe cherry is your best Senate seat map and Pine is your best house map.

But neither are good enough yet.

All of your maps put a thumb on the scale for the republican party.

Fairness is when both parties have to win a majority of votes to win a majority of seats.

Not win on one party has a leg up.

You can and need to do better.

Let's unpack Lansing and let's keep Senate districts Lansing five Lansing East Lansing Meridian and Okemos Delhi and Delta should have five seats in total.

I support the AFLCIO fair maps project and strongly encourage you all to do the same.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 49.

>> Hello, I'm Derek from UA plumbers and pipefitters.

I support cherry as best Senate map as well.

And Pine as the best house map.

But I also agree that neither are good enough yet.

I'm asking the MICRC to follow the Constitution plain and simple.

Meeting partisan fairness should be a top priority in the maps proposed but I the Commission have not shown that at all.

I'm not asking for perfect rectangles I'm just asking for fairness.

I also agree that we should unpack Lansing and have Lansing East Lansing Meridian and Okemos and Delhi and Delta have their own anchors making that five seats.

Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have number 50?

>> Hi, thank you for letting me allowing me to testify.

My name is and I reside in Burcham drive in East Lansing Michigan.

I worked with Voters Not Politicians to make sure we had a fair election process.

I would urge you to pass the Birch map for Congressional districts.

Thank you for putting the try County together and including Shiawassee and Livingston Counties many of these residents commute to Lansing on a regular basis.

Your maps for State House are not very fair.

Not only for Lansing District but also the statewide map.

They amount to gerrymandering.

Try County currently has four democratic seats this would reduce it to three.

I support the map from comment ID06677.

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It moves Delta Township and Lansing portion of the Eaton County back into the Eaton County District.

It also divides Ingham County north and south along Grand River avenue.

The house map needs major changes to create fair districts, voters want and the Constitution requires.

I strongly believe that the party with the most votes should win the most seats.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have numbers 51, 54 or 55 by any chance?

>> Good afternoons thank you for providing the opportunity for public comment. My name is Gerid and reside in Cass County a rural County in Southwest Michigan my family founded and based a home supply company here over 50 years ago. As I'm nearing the end of my bachelor's degree here in Lansing, I'm preparing for a leadership role managing window sales in the company. Our small business has expanded to 7 stores based in Cass Berrien and St. Joseph counties.

In Indiana this area is widely known by local as Michiana and there are issues we face bordering another state.

The businesses have figured out viable solution to the complex Commissioner issues but a split Senate District risks adequate representation.

The proposed redistricting map splits our small business into two Senate districts. Creating hurdles and damaging solutions that we have made to ensure our business is successful.

Please keep Michiana intact to ensure our small business is represented.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 59, 60, 61 and 62 and 59 when you reach the microphone, please feel free to speak.

>> Good evening my name is Dale Branch president NAACP.

I'm here to talk about two issues the first is the house seats.

We feel that the portion of Lansing that is cut out and put in with Delta is not a good move.

We feel that that is a bit of gerrymandering and also reduces the effectiveness of people primarily Black indigenous people of color to have an opportunity to be represented.

Likewise we feel the same way concerning your Senate seats.

The fact that north end of town is cut out and placed in with the rural area.

We see no reason for that.

We feel that the current seating structure we have is best for that.

We ask that you would consider relooking at these maps and take these things in consideration, people of color, and they're about to be represented.

And elected.

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We also look at the idea that the comment I think it's comment ID06677 was more appropriate at least for what we saw for the house seats.

We are still looking at the Senate seat to see how that could be done.

If not at least bouncing back to the way it was.

But thank you very much for the opportunity to speak.

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

>> Good evening my name is Mr. Brown I'm a resident and former mayor of the City of Albion as mayor in 2018 I led the Council in introducing and approving a resolution in support of prop two.

Thank you for putting Albion with Battle Creek together in a Calhoun County house seat.

A Battle Creek Albion District rents Black voters and persons of color in the region while also increasing partisan fairness.

Both Albion and Battle Creek are postindustrial working class cities with institutions of higher learning.

Albion that is Albion college and Battle Creek that is Kellogg community college.

This is in contrast to the historical farmlands which surround both cities.

Breaking Albion away from Battle Creek would set it afloat with rural Townships and villages with vastly different economic and social needs.

Albion is roughly 30% African/American.

And Battle Creek is roughly 18% African/American and 30% persons of color.

The Constitution requires partisan fairness but you can do this while also respecting Community of Interest for all for your time and your service.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 61.

>> I'm Sandra from Novi Michigan.

And I'm very concerned about my community.

And the state and the nation.

Families and neighborhoods are so divided by economic status, color, City versus rural and now vaccine status since arrival of COVID.

I'm here to ask this randomly selected body to set aside political partisanship and do what is honest and right for our state.

Please keep your hands off the scale.

Let the citizens of our nation freely choose our leaders in a transparent orderly fashion and free and fair elections.

One day maybe soon we will all stand before the Judge of all the earth to give account of things done in the open.

And what is done in secret.

It won't be worth it then to have acted unfairly when you held the keys to do right.

Let me close by reminding the Commission that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

And I'll be praying for you all.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 62.

>> I also will be praying for you and applaud the efforts in Detroit and looking at Community of Interest that cross 8 mile and Woodward and I was born and raised in Detroit and live in Lansing but how do we fix these issues that the community of interest crosses these County lines and where they work and where people live and going back and forth.

So I really applaud that effort as you're going forward.

And we need to do in the Lansing region as well.

We have this common area of interest and so splitting it up so that you're matching the diverse population goal three because we have a common interest but then partisan fairness you need to balance those two together and I encourage you to keep moving in that direction.

So school districts, communities of Waverly Okemos Haslett Holt Dewitt are all real key community of interest to base from and from there build a District that is of partisan fairness.

Because we are all working together in this region.

And as a state and when we have all these divides that we have not crossed in the last 40, 50 years is what is putting us behind so encourage you to go forward with it 0677 is a house map worth looking at and I will be putting forth suggestions how we can fix the State Senate.

Look at trappers cove the college town students they maybe should be in the East Lansing.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Numbers 63, 64, 65 and 66.

>> Hello, my name is Jason I'm from UAW local 602.

I live in Grand Ledge I work in Lansing Delta Township.

And my union hall is in Lansing.

We came I came here to talk to you about your maps.

The cherry map seems to be the best for the Senate and Pine map best for the house. But I did notice when I was reviewing them that it still looks like they are tipped towards republicans and I know partisan fairness is a big priority.

We need to make sure we are still doing that.

I know you guys have an impossible job but we got to make sure it's fair for everybody. I'm also asking you guys unpack Lansing.

And the AFLCIO has a fair maps project and think the maps are pretty good so we should look at theirs.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 51 I heard is here now.

51, go ahead, sir.

>> El my apologies I will be brief.

My name is Ted Wilson here in Lansing.

Real quick please unpack Lansing.

We support fair and balanced maps.

And what we are not seeing from the Commission so far is a fairness balanced map.

I know you have a hard job here but we live in Lansing and we do the dirty work for money, for politics.

We know what happens with America's for austerity and Mackinac center and dirty money that want to influence politics but bottom line we are tired of it and COVID showed us the under belly and ugliness of our state and people.

What you didn't see if you did not live here, you did not see the pick up tracks like night riders with the shotguns intimidating the populations.

Think about the fact now us democrats we are done waiting it in more for climate change actions and done waiting to be silenced because someone wants a bigger boat and they want to silence and take away our opportunity for our people.

One vote, one vote.

One person one vote.

That's what it's supposed to be.

If you break this social contract by not providing a fair balanced legislative map, I'm sorry map for voting for our legislatures you have broken the social contract.

I'm sorry but everyone is armed.

We don't have time anymore.

Please we implore you to do the job we sent you to do Szetela se Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have 64, 65 or 66?

>> Hi, hi name is Carrie a resident of Owosso in Shiawassee County.

I'm asking you keep Shiawassee County together in one State House District.

I live in rush Township and we are a part of Owosso.

We live in the same community of interest.

We are a small rural community of one voice.

And we have kept Shiawassee together in the Senate District maps but I'm asking you to please do the same with Shiawassee County in the State House District.

This has been reiterated in public comment to this Commission for some time.

We are one voice as a County and we need our County to be kept together for the District maps.

And I would like to just add that I do my shopping, my banking, I go to my church in Owosso and I would like to vote in Owosso.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 65 or 66.

>> Thank you.

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My name is Michael Jacobs I'm from Shiawassee County.

Shiawassee County is a community of interest.

I live in one of the northern Townships and we are completely associated with Owosso.

We are part of the same community.

Our voice has always been represented by one house member.

I now ask this Commission as many residents of Shiawassee County have asked throughout the year to keep our County together.

We are a rural County.

We need the same representation as we have had all along.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 66.

>> Hello, my name is Edward Cook member of the UA local 333 out of Lansing.

Look at the maps cherry is the best option or cherry is the best for the Senate.

Pine is the best for the house.

I believe we can do better.

I like the options I'm seeing from the AFLCIO.

Kind of take notes from that, look over their plans.

I'm also interested in unpacking Lansing.

We should have our five seats.

We have the population to support that.

Thank you for your time.

I really hope you guys can do better to serve us all, thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 67, 68, 69 and 70.

>> My name is Cynthia Richardson and I'm a resident of Waterloo in Jackson County for 18 years.

I spoke to you in May at the first redistricting public comment hearing held in Jackson.

I heard several resident speak about keeping us in Jackson and based on the maps you certainly ignored our request.

In May I heard speakers talk about the Waterloo recollection area as a community of interest.

The DNR is shared by Washtenaw and Jackson Counties this is not a reason to lump Waterloo in Washtenaw County.

It's very rural and different needs from Washtenaw and Livingston Counties some differences.

We have private wells and septic service not public and we do not have broadband and cellular service is spotty.

We do not have public transportation and do not have full time police and fire service.

Our needs will go unaddressed if we are merged with the counties.

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As a member of the planning Commission I ask you to keep us with similar Townships in Jackson County such as Henrietta and Grass Lake we work together with issues and please avoid merging rural with urban communities.

Thank you for your work on this important project and listening to residents.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 68.

>> Hello, my name is Rodney Austin from Saginaw Michigan.

I spend much of my time in Mount Pleasant and reside in Lansing and commute back and forth to my second home in Detroit.

I'm advocate for voters and voters rights and what I noticed in majority of attendees here and from yesterday's hearing in Detroit which I was also at I attended I continue to hear the words fairness and nonpartisanship for you Commissioners this cannot be a very easy feat.

I don't think it was meant nor should be.

However, I encourage you and grateful for you that you can be the change to go the extra mile.

To be the change and redo the impossibilities for everyone especially those that are disenfranchise as underrepresented across our state.

It's consistent within the inner of all the cities which typically should be the majority of their neighborhoods and citizens for the maps drawn. Pine being the better map for the house.

On either side it is reiterated that the vast differences in these major areas versus the other smaller areas that take prevalence in representation over the majority.

We and I say we respectfully as you are all a part of our community as well, that we must do better.

Thank you for your time.

And pray for the good and betterness of our Great Lakes Michigan.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 69.

>> Hello, thank you to the committee for your work.

And for taking time to hear input from citizens.

I'm Bill Richardson and live in Waterloo in Jackson County Michigan.

I have concerned about all three maps in most cases Waterloo is in Washtenaw not Jackson County District and Jackson County is not kept whole in most of the maps.

I heard in the May hearing from rural and urban residents urban and rural are different communities of interest and need different representation.

Waterloo Township is a single precinct of less than 3,000 residents and it has very different needs than the larger populated Townships in Washtenaw County.

The map does the worst job of capturing Community of Interest is the Pine house representative map.

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Waterloo is in the large chunk of City of Ann Arbor.

We have no City water or sewer no broadband or Internet and no public transportation. Ann Arbor on the other hand has all these things.

How can they represent the constituents when they have vastly different resources.

How will a representative vote on legislation involving these things.

Waterloo Township will not have a voice in the end with this type of set up.

Please do your best to keep Waterloo in Jackson County and keep Jackson County whole as much as possible in the maps, thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Number 70.

>> Hello, Commissioners, my name is drew Beckman a student at Michigan State University and originally from Sterling Heights in Macomb County.

I'm concerned that nearly all of the maps presented to the public favor one political party over the other.

One of the primary reasons proposal two passed in 2018 to ensure redistricting would produce fair maps.

For Congressional districts the best maps are the Lange Szetela and Juniper and the Lange map would have partisan fairness across the state using election results over the last five years but the map breaks up VRA districts that may need to be reevaluated to ensure minority voices will equate to representation.

Juniper kept most of south Macomb whole maintaining a COI.

For stat Senate consider Szetela or Eid maps because they are the only ones to achieve partisan fairness.

The maps split up Sterling Heights and Warren limiting our voice in Lansing.

None of the State House maps published achieve partisan fairness.

I would continue to work on the maps so no party will have a disproportionate advantage in upcoming elections.

Thank you for all your hard work.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 71, 72, 73, and 74.

>> Good evening.

I'm a student at Michigan State University thank you for the opportunity to speak.

Ottawa County residents made the voice clear in portal on Zoom and in person.

Ottawa County is a community of interest at the Federal level and should be kept together as in the Apple map in District nine.

The lakeshore is a vital economic and creates job opportunity and of course incredible recreation.

It's also important to keep the Great Lakes clean and properly funded and must be a unified community in Michigan that reflects that on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Muskegon and Ottawa and Allegan form the heart of Lake Michigan shoreline and encompass 550,000 people.

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Not just the lakeshore they share significant agricultural ties whether it's fruits and vegetables, vast variety of greenhouses and poultry and turkey.

The agricultural ties between the counties run deep.

Your job is not easy.

Especially not being from West Michigan.

I'm asking you to honor the voice of the people who do live there keep Ottawa County together and protect the lakeshore for future generations.

You have started and asking you to finish it and the way it is in the Apple map, map 201.

Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 72.

>> Hi, my name is Tiwan, and live in Holt, Michigan.

When we look at maps like State Senate District 24 it includes parts of Ingham County, Clinton County and Shiawassee County.

It's really important that we give Ingham County residents and residents who live in the try County area fair maps and equal represent in the Senate.

Ingham County and Clinton and Eaton County already work together in the try County area region and giving them a Senate map that does include the area they work with the most does not make sense.

It's nothing but continue to pack districts for republicans.

It's also really important that we keep the City of Lansing together.

Currently the maps keep six precincts in the City of Lansing in a separate District from each other and splits Community of Interest like the crystal way error with lots of Hispanic votes it's really important we keep those areas in the City of Lansing together.

Giving Ingham County two Senate seats it's important to own sure people have equal and fair representation in the Michigan legislature.

More importantly when we are drawing maps we have to ask as everyone mentioned account for partisan fairness.

It's number four on the list of concerns.

We have to ensure that this Commission does its job which I applaud you for doing given that none of you will have a background in this and none of you have any idea like how difficult this process is going to be.

But it's really important that we give every resident a chance to act and participate.

Like the speaker said earlier one person one vote.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 73 or 74.

>> Hi, my name is Susan Anderson.

Thank you for your service and for this opportunity.

I would like to see Lansing unpacked.

Particularly with the house map.

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Unfortunately Delta Township was taken, put into the Lansing area instead of staying in Eaton County causing democrats to lose a seat.

I urge you to put it back.

Also I urge you to use map 06677 as it is the fairest for this area.

The Senate maps are a little bit better, but you do take the Hispanic community in the northern part of Lansing and you take particularly the community center with crystal rays in precinct two.

And you move that to Clinton County, splitting a small Hispanic community.

I urge you to put that back.

But I also want to thank you for the Birch map, for the Congressional District.

That looks good to me.

Thank you very much.

Appreciate you listening.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 74.

>> Good evening.

Thank you for letting me address you tonight and for your hard work on solving this difficult problem.

I'm Jim Johnson from Stockbridge Michigan a small rural community in southeast Ingham County.

And in support of the community of interest concept, if we are lumped in with Ann Arbor or Lansing as it is on some of the maps, we will just be overwhelmed.

We have different needs and requirements than large cities would have.

So and if I'm understanding the term correctly unpacked Lansing, if that means slice it up into pieces and stick them on the edge of rural communities, that would just overwhelm these rural communities and the residents there would not have a voice.

And I don't think that's the Commission is trying to do.

And the map, the Pine map for the house, I don't think that is good.

And should be looked at again.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 75, 76 and 77.

>> 75 go ahead.

>> Hi, hi name is mark Dr. Mark Brant and I'm a resident in East Lansing so just down the road.

Thank you all for your service.

I know this is not easy.

And spend a lot of time just today sitting here. Democrats are legitimate because they are able to represent the people, if democracies do not represent the people, they are ill legitimate and leads to society instability.

We know this from research and observation. It's well-known.

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Michigan's current maps are unfair and let the republicans control the legislature which does not represent the majority of Michiganders and also a problem with the proposed maps.

My preferred solution is to adopt a proportional representation system but that would require to chain change the Constitution and do not expect that to happen now.

I have a smaller and reasonable suggestion to fix the proposed maps so they have partisan fairness.

As a resident of the Lansing region we should have five seats competitive for democrats in the State House but the proposed house only have three.

It's not great.

This is not a #draw fair maps.

One option is to unpack Lansing.

There may be others to #draw fair maps partisan fairness needs to be prioritized.

It's important.

It's important for stability of the state.

And for people to be heard.

Thank you very much for your time.

And for your service.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 76.

>> Yes, thank you for allowing me an opportunity to address the Honorable Commissioners.

My name is Patrice Johnson and live in Ingham County.

And from what I'm hearing today I'm hearing things like unpack and partisanship.

And I urge the Commission not to give in to pressure for partisanship.

Communities of interest should take priority.

School systems need to stay together.

It's very important that we honor the voters who elected basically voted for representation that honors their community.

They did not vote for more gerrymandering.

The gerrymandering was the reason that this Commission is now in place.

The voters didn't want partisanship to dominate.

Do not give into it and thank you for your efforts and I know it's an impossible job but communities of interest should take priority, not unpacking, not partisanship.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 77.

>> Good evening thank you for allowing me to speak.

My name is Tom Emory I'm a resident of Perry Township in Shiawassee County.

My...the Constitution requires you to recognize the communities of interest.

I'm mostly concerned about the State Senate map.

The State Senate map that you apparently are considering now would destroy the community of interest concept for Shiawassee County.

Shiawassee County is demographically a rural and made up of mostly small towns except Owosso, that is a fairly decent sized town.

But putting us in with East Lansing which conversely is much more urban, has a major University and large transit system basically our interests are quite different.

It's important that first of all to consider and I talk about unpacking.

It sounds like some of it has been done when Lansing and East Lansing are separated and attached to some Shiawassee County rural Shiawassee County, rural Clinton County and it looks like there is an effort to slice and dice and impose on us interests from the urban areas.

And so I think you should take a look at that.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 78 and 79.

>> Good evening, my name is Keith.

I'm from northwest Calhoun County.

And in particular I'm looking at the cherry and the oak maps.

And there is a lot of good details, good aspects of these maps.

But there are some parts that they just don't look as right.

In particular looking at for example the cherry map, District 3 which is in the area I live in, it is spread across four Counties and has the shape of a like a misshapen eye or a misshapen J.

For the oak map, the District 71 is spread across two Townships and shaped like a fallen Chair.

The 72 District, I got that one wrong, the District three is shaped like an hourglass and 72 District is shaped like an I or a J and 74 is an upside down U.

They just look strange for not being gerrymandered.

And so I can't -- maybe the communities of interest are gerrymandered or misshapen.

But they just look strange.

As being they would be gerrymandered to have the extreme shapes.

Appreciate your time.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 79.

>> Good evening, Commissioners.

My name is Sonia Patrick and live in Calhoun County I would like to discuss proposed maps for House District labeled oak.

I'm truly grateful you didn't put Battle Creek can Kalamazoo there is not a justifiable reason for the long stretch across the top of the County from Battle Creek to Albion.

The residents in your proposed District 71 I think would have to go all the way around District 74 to get to the rest of their District 74 cuts straight into it.

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The kids of Albion go to Marshall schools, therefore Albion and Marshall it's imperative they stay together.

I am also curious to know why these proposed maps have 64 Directors going to democrats and 46 districts going to republicans.

People keep talking about the maps not being fair, they are really not fair.

Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have any more in person commentators? I think that is it.

Are you number 80? Come on up.

You don't need to be brief.

I just last count I got is we had 79 so I just wanted to make sure there weren't more out there.

>> Thank you, guys, for giving me an opportunity to speak.

So I live and work in Jackson County.

What brings me here tonight is partisan fairness statewide mapping is 3.5 to 5% in favor of republicans so we have to work toward 0 partisan fairness.

And the AFLCOI fair maps project lays out a way we can do both of these and redistricts Jackson County to only include Jackson County and west Washtenaw like Scio Pittsfield we can create a fair and more equitable mapping District.

Thank you for your work so far.

Our job is not done yet and we need to continue working towards 0 partisan fairness with these maps.

Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Do we have an 81? All right so at this point we are going to move on to the remote public commentary.

So individuals who have signed up and indicated that they would like to provide live, remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. I will call 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 the phone, a voice will say that the host would like you to speak and prompt you to press star six to unmute. I will call on you by your name.

If you experience technical or audio issues and 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 [redistricting@Michigan.gov](mailto:redistricting@Michigan.gov) and we will help you troubleshoot so you can participate during the next public comment period at a later hearing or meeting.

You will have 90 seconds to address the Commission. Please conclude your remarks when the 90 seconds has ended and hear the timer. You can go to the public comment tool and share comments if writing including any specific area of the map about which you are speaking.

Public comment tool is at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC).

First in line to provide public comment is Mr. James Gallant.

>> Hello, James Gallant, Marquette, these are my opinions.

We know prop two was approved, first question for the Supreme Court is did Secretary Benson transmit the certified language of the amendment to the director of management and budget as required under MCO 168.14 or 14 -- that would be 168.486.

And that would currently be Julia Dale to determine the appropriate oversight within the legislative Branch of the state.

Now please do the due diligence and get a report and advice from your legal team about that.

Now next concerning Mike Brady's instructions to you that you must follow Robert's Rules of order on behalf of people of the State of Michigan. The example today of the most egregious advice happened today concerning your October 30th meeting. And the Chair assigned the floor to Ms. Hammersmith without a motion pending. That allowed Commissioner Lett to negotiate a different motion after all the debate ended.

Secretary of State Benson did the same thing when she convened the first meeting in September 2020.

Now under procedures to debate, Page 366, line eight, until a matter has been brought before the Commission in the form of a motion, proposing a specific action, it cannot be debated.

Under dequorum, Page 371, Line 25, in debate a Commissioner's remarks must be germane to the question before the assembly, that is the statement must have bearing on whether the immediately pending motion should be adopted.

Under limited discussion.

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

>> Hello.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Hello.

>> My name is Janet.

I have lived and bordered in Royal Oak.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Are you still there? We cannot hear you if you are speaking.

Okay, it appears that Janet is having some technical difficulties so we are going to move on to Margaret.

>> I'm here.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can hear and go ahead.

>> Your program keeps making me rejoin.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead.

>> Okay, I know this is hard especially given the late arrival of census data and complications of the pandemic.

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The proposed maps give republicans a representative advantage ranging from small to quite large.

It doesn't matter if these maps are quote better than our current maps.

However part of the constitutional requirement is there be no advantage to either party.

Follow the rules please as they have been given to you.

I say this in particular to your democrats and to you independents.

And also to you republicans.

You must listen to us.

The state's majority of voters.

There are definitely ways to make these maps fair.

It's not over.

Thank you for this opportunity.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Margaret Shankler.

>> Hi this is Margaret Shankler from Washtenaw County.

Hang on.

Okay, thank you for all the hard work you've put into the draft maps to date.

I imagine that rethinking the maps over and over is exhausting.

But I urge you not to stop until all the maps achieve the key goal of proposition two.

Which is to level the playing field and provide partisan fairness across all maps.

We are not there yet.

None of the current maps achieve true fairness.

In fact, under the proposed maps one party will have no chance at claiming a majority of seats in the Senate or house for another ten years.

I've heard the claim that unfair maps are inevitable in Michigan because of geography.

However promote the votes maps show that it's possible to create maps with an efficiency gap very near 0.

Accordingly I request you adjust your maps to be in line with promote the vote map number 61556159 and 6250.

These maps are fair, increase representation for communities of interest.

And uphold the Voting Rights Act.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Anthony Skinnell.

>> Good afternoon, evening Commission.

So my area of interest is southwest and Down River.

In your Congressional map.

I've been very consistent in my comments week after week.

I've watched every meeting so when you want to tell me your Congressional map

District one is drew Methodically it was drawn by one Commissioner and sat on the shelf when you did it weeks on end and cut and passed it through Cedar Birch and

Juniper from Commissioner Eid and switched Warren for Romulus and why would they belong in the same District.

They are not really close.

So I have offered another configuration for Congress in Detroit.

And I don't see why it should not at least be a proposal.

I feel it's a more conventional east west slit than what you devised and reached the same metrics as you population wise.

Gives both my configuration would get Detroit river frontage which I think is important for drinking water, our recreation and you name it and yesterday I came up with the bus routes and let's talk about Schaffer road and telegraph and greenfield all of these are contiguous through my District.

And it mixes them up.

Why would you even put your main configuration Lincoln Park with Warren, little Lincoln Park with the third biggest City in Michigan and Juniper with Mr. Eid you want to put Romulus with Harper Woods why would those belong together.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission and we have more in person commenters so we have 81, 82, 83, 84 if you would like to approach the microphone and 81 when you reach the microphone you can begin speaking go ahead ma'am.

>> Meredith Kennedy of Lansing Michigan.

You do good work of redistricting we ask you recognize you are on indigenous lands.

You are our guest on our lands.

As a guest on our lands it is important that you uphold our values.

Our values include the teachings of love, truth honesty and respect.

With values is a task of equality and fairness to all peoples on the land you occupy and within our very own communities.

Do not look at us in support of the illegal occupancy but acknowledgment that your drafted maps are currently not living up to our values.

You have silenced the voices of our relatives in the Upper Peninsula removing the only public hearing in that area.

There are five recognized tribes and numerous unrecognized tribal people who live on the lands.

You have now excluded our relations creating a barrier of transportation.

They do not have reliable phone or Internet service so Zoom is not an option.

With regard to communities of interest it is not clear whether the Commission has followed a systematic way to choose among COIs nor how the draft proposal plans reflect those.

Consider what indigenous peoples and the citizens of Michigan have to say during each hearing and through online portal station submissions as well.

My indigenous relatives from all nations across Michigan are here with me today.

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Please remember you did not come to us. We came to you.

And we want to remind you that you have a treaty obligation to include us.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 82.

>> Jeremy.

While you do this good work, we ask you to recognize the indigenous populations of Michigan as a community of interest.

There are approximately 80,000 tribal people in the state this is a gross under count and does not include those disenfranchise due to broken treaty.

Sovereign of little Travis Indians and Grand Traverse Bay band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians.

Delineated and housing complex and community centers and also the Indian health services clinics.

These clinics oversee the well-being of our peoples with mental health, vision, doctor care, internal health and many more.

It's important to cite the places with creation of COI with basic needs and services in the areas and typically have to live within the areas to receive.

This map is more than fair and equitable than the one in the MICRC as proposed and I request it be used instead.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 83.

>> My name is Steven of the Grand Traverse band.

While you do this good work, we ask that you encourage ask that you recognize the indigenous populations of Michigan as a community of interest.

Per the C.D.C. there are approximately 80,000 peoples in our state.

This is a gross under count as it does not include those who have been disenfranchise due to broken treaties and forced as escalation practices and it has the sovereign nations of little Travis and Grand Traverse band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians delineated reservation boundaries and includes vital services for tribal communities including housing and community centers and Indian health service clinics and oversee the well-being with our peoples with a variety of services including mental health, vision, primary doctor care maternal health and many more.

It's important to cite place places in the creation of this COI map as we receive basic needs and services within these areas and typically have to live within them to receive such services.

This map is more fair and equitable than the one the MICRC has proposed and I request that it be used instead.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 84.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Excuse me I wanted to be sure that the map you are referencing was the one that was on the screen.

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If not, can we please have the map ID so we are sure? P900.

Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: P900.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Just to confirm the map submission that is referenced, that was P900 however if it was a community of interest map you were referring to those usually begin with a C.

So you may just want to double check.

Thank you.

>> With little Travis Bay Indians and reside in Lansing Michigan.

While you do this good work, we ask you to recognize the indigenous populations of Michigan as a community of interest.

Per the C.D.C. there are approximately 80,000 tribal people in our state.

This is a gross under count as it does not include those who have been disenfranchised due to broken treaties and forced assimilation practices.

This map encompass the sovereign nations of little Travis Bay and Grand Traverse of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians delineated and includes vital services for tribal communities, housing complex community centers and the Indian health services clinics and oversee the well-being of our peoples with a variety of services including mental health, vision, primary doctor care mental health and many more.

It is important to cite these places.

And the creation of the COI.

Map as we receive the basic needs services within the areas and typically have to live in the areas to receive.

This map is much more fair and equitable than the one that the MICRC has proposed and I request that it be used instead.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 85, 86, 87 and 88.

>> Go ahead ma'am.

>> Okay hello I'm Alexa from Petoskey, Michigan.

The map I will be referencing is the P900.

While you do this good work, we ask you to recognize the indigenous populations of Michigan as a community of interest.

Per the CD are there are approximately 80,000 tribal peoples in our state.

This is a gross under count as it does not include those who have been disenfranchised due to broken treaties and forced assimilation practices.

This map encompass the sovereign nations of Little Traverse Bay bands of Odawa Indians and Grand Traverse band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians delineated reservation boundaries.

This map includes vital services for tribal communities including housing complexes, community centers, and also the Indian health services clinics.

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These clinics receive the with well-being of our peoples with variety of services including mental health, vision, primary doctor care, maternal health and many more.

It is important to cite these places in the creation of this COI.

Map as we receive basic need services within these areas and typically have to live within these areas to receive.

This map is much more fair and equitable than the one the MICRC has proposed and I request that it be used instead.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 86.

>> I'm from Mount Pleasant Michigan.

I grew up in Lansing and plan on moving to Northern Michigan at the end of the school year.

While you do this good work, we ask you to recognize the indigenous populations of Michigan as a community of interest.

Per the C.D.C. there are approximately 80,000 tribal peoples in our state.

This is a gross under count as it does not include those who have been disenfranchised to broken treaties and assimilation practices.

It's centered of the very few places where indigenous people estimate of 50 from all tribal nations can receive services in the Detroit area.

The American Indian health and family services is a nonprofit health center whose mission is to empower and enhance the physical spiritual emotional and mental well-being of American Indian Alaskan native individuals.

Families and other underserved populations in Southeast Michigan through culturally grounded health and family services.

This map is much more fair and equitable.

Than the one the MICRC has proposed.

And I request that it be used instead.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 87.

>> I am going to be using the house map 06250PTV.

While you do this good work, we ask that you recognize the indigenous populations of Michigan as a community of interest.

Per the C.D.C. there are approximately 80,000 tribal peoples in our state.

This is a gross under count as it does not include those who have been disenfranchised to broken treaties and form assimilation practices.

This map is centered around one of the very few places where indigenous community members the estimate is 50,000 in the Metro area of all tribal nations.

Can receive services in the Detroit area.

The American Indian health and family services is a nonprofit health center whose mission is to empower and enhance the physical, spiritual, emotional and mental

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well-being of American Indian Alaskan native families and underserved populations in Michigan.

Through culturally grounded health and family services.

This map is much more fair and equitable than the MICRC has processed and I request that it be used instead.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 88.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Madam Chair could I get that, I'm sorry, this is Commissioner Lange.

Could I get that map number again please.

She said it was a house map.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 062.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: 06250.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: 6250 is that correct?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: This is a screen share of the submission.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: It's on the screen right now.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: It's a public comment that is a link here.

And you're able to view the map through there.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right 88.

>> Hello, I'm Jennifer from Lansing.

I'll be referring to the map 06250PTV also.

While you do this good work, we ask you to recognize the indigenous populations of Michigan as community of interest.

Per the C.D.C. there are approximately 80,000 tribal peoples in our state.

This is a gross under cut as it does not include those who have been disenfranchised to broken treaties and forced assimilation practices.

This map is centered around one of the very few places where indigenous community members the estimate of 50,000 in the Metro area from all tribal nations can receive services in the Detroit area.

The American Indian health and family services is a nonprofit health center whose mission is to empower and enhance the physical spiritual emotional well-being of Indian and Alaska individuals.

Families and underserved population in Southeast Michigan from cultural grounded and family health services.

This map is much more fair and equitable than the one that the MICRC has proposed and I request that it be used instead.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 89.

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>> I'm from Lansing, Michigan.

While you do this good work, we ask that you recognize the indigenous populations of Michigan as a community of interest.

Per the C.D.C. there are approximately 80,000 tribal peoples in our state this is a gross under count and does not include those who have been disenfranchised due to broken treaties and forced assimilation practices.

This map encompass the sovereign nation of little Bay Ottawa Indians and Grand Traverse Chippewa and Ottawa delineated boundaries and has vital services for communities including housing complex and Indian health service clinics and oversee the well-being of our peoples with a variety of services including mental health vision primary doctor care maternal health and many more.

It's important to cite the places in the create of COI map as we receive basic needs, services within these areas and typically have to live within these areas to receive.

This map is much more fair and equitable than the one the MICRC has proposed and I request that it be used instead.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Was that 89? 89, 90 and 91.

So 90, okay.

>> Good evening.

I reside in Lansing, Michigan.

I'm a member of the Apache tribe from Arizona. Today I'll will referencing 06159 for the Senate.

Now while you do this good work, we ask you to recognize the indigenous populations of Michigan as a community of interest.

Per the C.D.C. there are approximately 80,000 tribal peoples in our state.

This is a gross under count.

As it does not consider those who have been disenfranchised due to broken treaties and forced assimilation practices.

This map includes the Indian health services clinic run by the Nottawaseppi Huron band of Potawatomi and they hold the responsibility of providing and coordinating access to quality cultural based health and social services to promote over all well-being for federally recognized American Indians, Alaska natives and descendants living in the Grand Rapids area.

This map is much more fair and equitable than the one the MICRC has proposed. And I request that this be used instead.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 91.

>> Hello I'm Chris.

I'm a trustee from Ottawa Township and I've been here before and obviously didn't take all my advised.

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I watched your meetings and watched you draw lines and encouraged that you truly listened to the people in respecting communities of interest.

Then the drumbeat came to ignore communities for partisan purposes and to ignore your constitutional priorities.

I've got two perfect examples of that here today.

First in the Lansing Metro, as well visual aid you did a great job of splitting Lansing as little as possible and respecting neighborhoods and communities as best you can with population requirements and splitting partisan ship with what is drawn in the area.

Every red dot submitted on your maps was a comment to further split the Metro and no mention of a reason other than partisanship.

The same can be said with Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

Countless republican and portal comments how they are a community of interest with shared services.

The City of Ann Arbor even with Ypsilanti is part of the Ann Arbor community and command you because you listened to comments when drawing collaborative maps but coordinated partisan voices started beating the drum with the Washtenaw democrat party posting online it's counter intuitive to split the two and gain them more seats.

Every red dot wants Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti to split.

I have something the community ought to see.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: You can hand that to our General Counsel.

Right here.

All right Thank you for addressing the Commission. Thank you for addressing the Commission. 92.

Your signs, yeah.

>> Hello.

I'll be referencing map 06205.

Introduction.

Lansing Michigan.

While you do this good work, we ask you to recognize the indigenous population of Michigan as a community of interest.

Per the C.D.C. there are approximately 80,000 tribal people in our state.

This is a gross under count as it does not include those who have been disenfranchised to broken treaties and forced assimilation practice.

Sorry this is deep stuff.

This map is centered around one of the very few places where indigenous community members estimate 50,000 in the Metro area from all tribal nations can receive services in the Detroit area.

The American Indian health and family services is a nonprofit center and the mission is to enhance the mental well-being of Alaskan native and families and other underserved people in Southwest Michigan through culturally ground health and family services.

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This map is much more fair and equitable than the one the MICRC has proposed and I request that it be used instead.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 93.

>> Thank you.

I'm Patricia I'm from East Lansing.

I've collected signatures for Voters Not Politicians because I believe the party that wins the most votes should win the majorities in the State House, the State Senate and Congress.

The Birch map noted in comments 06677 most accurately reflects the fair distribution of voters and avoids gerrymandering in the Lansing area districts.

You have packed the most democratic parts of Eaton County into Ingham County districts.

Reducing democratic representation in the try County area from four to three.

This is gerrymandering that collecting signatures and passing prop two was designed to correct.

We want statewide fair maps.

That one party has controlled the Senate and the house for decades.

Even though democratic candidates usually get most votes clearly the case maps have not been fair.

Thank you for treating the try County area as a community region in the Congressional map.

Please consider the map from comment 06677 which draws boundaries very similarly to your State Senate map.

And more accurately reflects our community.

Thank you for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. 94.

>> Hello.

I'm Landon Meyers I'm the Michigan coordinator for the campus vote project.

You may recognize me as I traveled with all of you during the campus tour which first, I want to thank you for taking the effort to listen to student voices and make sure they are a part of this process.

But here today I'm making sure that student voices are represented in the maps that are going to be approved.

So for first and this is something I know all of you know especially for doing the campus tour is that college campuses are communities of interest.

That is something that communities of interest are something we know are important for the process.

And that you have shown over and over again you are listening to and I thank you for that.

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But there are concerns that some campuses in the proposed maps are getting split in half.

As an example some of these schools that are potentially going to be split Grand Valley State University, some of the State Senate maps and Congressional maps split the University.

Oakland University.

Washtenaw community college.

And Macomb community college has to separate campuses that could easily be kept in one District.

No final map should be approved that splits a campus.

We know these are communities of interest.

They must be kept that way and any final map just keep campuses whole.

That is the best way for students to have their voice and their representation and to make sure that in the future they will be engaged citizens in the process and will have the representation while on campus.

Thank you for all you have done and I urge you to please make sure to approve maps that focus on students.

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

At this point we have gone through all the in person people who would like to comment so we are going to shift back to the remote.

And we will move on with Colleen T.

>> I'm Colleen and live in Brownstown and lived in Michigan and worked in Kalamazoo.

Unpack Kalamazoo Portage western Kalamazoo west of Douglas avenue and eastern Kalamazoo east of Douglas avenue.

And should anchor a District of their own.

Community of Interest is not to pack people in fewer districts to weaken the voice in the state legislature.

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

And complying with the Voting Rights Act.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Meagan B.

>> Good evening.

My name is Meagan B. I live in Portage and part of the 2018 that created this Commission and appreciative of the opportunity to provide public comment.

I'd like to recognize the efforts put forth by the Commission to create maps that work for all Michiganders.

I do believe however that there is still more work to be done.

To ensure partisan fairness is maintained.

One of the ways in which I believe we can do that is specific to the Kalamazoo area. I'm going to reiterate splitting the east side and the west side of Kalamazoo based on the different communities of interests there you have the large student population due to the University.

And on the west side and then the east side is quite a different community that I think deserves its own representation.

I believe that the Portage area is split correctly but should be kept separate from Kalamazoo as well as those are drawn today.

I do want to state that I like the U.S. Congressional Apple map draft.

Which combines Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids.

They have similar economic structures, university populations, and a large commuter population which includes my husband.

Folks who travel between the two cities for work and school.

With that thank you so much for your time and your attention.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. James L.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: James, if you are unable to unmute yourself you are free to address the Commission.

James you're unmuted and free to address the Commission.

James, can you hear us? It looks like James might be experiencing some technical issues and we can move on to the next participant.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Let's move on to Molly M.

>> Hello, my name is Molly M and I lived in Midland for 32 years.

I would like to thank you for the collaborative maps that you have drawn.

And the fact that you recognize Midland is a City and a vital part of the tri cities in the Mid-Michigan corridor.

When you work as a team it will be better than working individually.

The only map I have oak where Midland is not with Bay City but if that helps the rest of the state obtain as close to 0 political bias then so be it.

I would like to address the Senate and Congressional maps and ask you continue to view Midland as a City and part of the Mid-Michigan corridor.

You can see the overwhelming support for the maps in the portal.

You can sorry I know that you have comments that Midland is a farming community and that we need to stay with Midland County because of our historic flood.

First let me say we are far from a farming community.

We are a manufacturing community just like the rest of the cities in the Mid-Michigan corridor.

Like I said earlier I have lived in Midland my entire adult years and very active in our community.

I don't know one farmer.

Having said that, I would like to see more of Midland County like Sanford in with the tri cities in Flint.

This can easily be done putting Tuscola in with the thumb.

I know 237 and 233 were made by individuals of the committee but have Midland County in with the City of Midland to accommodate for flood concerns.

My biggest request is make sure the number of democrat and republican leaning seats is proportional which is 54 democratic and 46 republican so that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Our numbers 10 and 11 available? No, okay all right so.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Number 12.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Lawrence R.

>> Good evening can you hear me, please.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Great.

Let me just do the video.

Great.

Good evening, Commissioners.

My name is Lawrence R.

I reside in East Lansing.

And I served as Michigan's first state topographer a long time ago.

Two points one I strongly urge that the Birch map proposal for the Congressional districts in Michigan be adopted.

Particularly because the Lansing East Lansing Congressional District in this plan is comprehensive cohesive, compact and fair.

The second point is that the Commissioner's proposed State House maps for the Greater Lansing area are not fair.

And some may even consider them to be gerrymandered.

These makes pack democratic voters by placing Delta Township and Lansing in the heavily democratic areas of Ingham County.

These problems will be resolved by using the previously submitted map identified as 06677.

This map is more equitable.

It unpacks and I hate to use jargon what it means it does not concentrate, less concentrates overwhelmingly democratic districts and creates districts that divide Ingham County north and south and connects the northern areas with close suburbs in Clinton County.

This restores fairness and also reduces fragment mentation for Ingham County.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Sierra L.

>> I'm Sierra and please look at your maps of the whole state and especially the Lansing area and Detroit.

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And make partisan fairness your first priority.

Please impact Lansing into five districts.

As per Detroit, Detroit should not be one State House District.

What impacts one part of Detroit is vastly different from what impacts another part of Detroit.

Not looking at metrics and not taking certain things into consideration could very well lead to disenfranchising voters and that cannot be what the Commission is intending to do.

Detroit deserves to elect representatives who look like them because that is who will represent them to the fullest.

People of color in the state deserve to be represented, period.

That's a big reason we are not happy with these maps.

I hope after these hearings that you are taking the voices of Black people and people of color seriously.

It is your duty to get this right.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Jeff P, no. Hello.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Hello.

>> I am Jeff P.

From Okemos.

There is only one reason for the existence of the MICRC, one reason.

And partisan advance in Districting that results in one party or the other being overrepresented in the legislature or Congress.

Whether that advantage is created deliberately or inadvertently is of no consequence.

The result either way is to thwart the expressed will of the voters.

The MICRC current draft house map will exacerbate, not resolve, this problem.

As an example, the Lansing area districts will contribute to gerrymandering by creating noncompetitive districts that pack democrats while distributing republicans in favor districts.

Map 06677 does a better job in this region.

Please ensure that you fix the statewide skew towards republican advantage that is the clear result of the current map.

This is at the core of your mission.

Many maps have been submitted that do better at reducing partisan advantage while fully complying with the other constitutional mandates.

Please incorporate that good work into your own.

So and so produce a product that solves the problem you are constitutionally obligated to address.

Thank you.

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

>> Hello.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Hello.

>> Yes, my name is Viviana, a proud homeowner on the south side of Lansing since 2019.

I grew up in the area since the age of 11.

I'm first off, I would like to thank you all for taking the time to draw these maps.

I'm sure it's a very difficult task.

I would also like to thank you guys for splitting Lansing into two Senate seats.

I'm concerned about the house seats.

We currently have four representatives and your current plan is to confidence us even more into three.

I encourage you to go back to the drawing board and unpack to five and it will even out the playing field for both parties.

It's your mission to determine the balance in our state.

People continue to say that taking communities of interest into account not partisanship but the fact is of the matter is that all communities are communities of interest.

Every person deserves to feel equally represented.

So do the right thing for my neighbors and yours draw the maps fairly and equitably not fast and gerrymandered.

The AFLCIO map is a good place to start.

Thank you so much for your time today.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. We have one more person who is an in person commenter so I'm going to call out 95 at this point and we will go back to remote.

>> My name is Nicole Dalton I'm from Ludington, Michigan and while you all do good work, we ask that you recognize the indigenous population of Michigan as a community of interest.

Per the C.D.C. there are approximately 80,000 tribal people in our state.

This is a gross under count as it does not include those that have been disenfranchised due to broken treaties and forced assimilation practices.

This map encompass the sovereign nations of little Traverse and Grand Traverse Chippewa and Ottawa Indians, I'm sorry and reservation boundaries.

This map includes vital services for tribal communities including housing complexes, community centers and also the Indian health services clinics.

These clinics oversee the well-being of our people.

With a variety of services including mental health, vision, primary doctor care, maternal care and much more.

It is important to cite these places in the creation of the COI map as we receive basic needs services within these areas.

And typically have to live within these areas to receive.

This map is much more fair and equitable than the one that the MICRC has proposed and I request that it be used instead.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Okay we are going to go back to remote public comment can Sarah.

>> All right sorry the technical difficulties.

I hope you can hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can hear you.

>> Great thank you for allowing me to speak and all the work you have done on this project.

I voted for the Commission that created this project.

However, I feel that the maps that the MICRC has do not sufficiently end racial gerrymandering.

They also do not sufficiently address communities of interest.

And they none of the maps currently approach what would be called partisan fairness.

So I highly recommend the following map.

It's more fair and equitable from the promote the vote.

U.S. Congressional P6782.

Michigan State Senate. P6783 and Michigan State House P6784.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Hudson.

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Thank you.

Sorry it took a second thank you for letting me speak today.

Today 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 criterias three and four.

Rather than sacrificing one for the other.

An example, sorry, right now the maps as they stand benefit the republican party and it's the Commission's constitutional duty to get the partisan fairness on the maps as close to 0 as possible.

Right now the maps benefit the republican par think and thus would be unconstitutional gerrymander which is my main concern right now.

And thank you for letting me speak today.

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

>> Hello.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can hear you.

>> I have been to so many hearings.

You probably know me.

I live in Warren, Michigan.

Hello.

The map I'm referring to is C6211.

C62211.

There have been a lot of hearings big number of people from my community Bangladeshi American community went to the hearing for the same map.

And we are hoping we would be under one umbrella.

Please do not break our dream to be under one umbrella, please do not break us apart.

In two districts 10 and to put Hamtramck Bangla Town and Warren community under one map.

Please and thank you for listening to me.

Thank you very much.

Have a good one.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Jackie H, I'm sorry.

>> Hello, can you hear me now.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Okay, hi, my name is Jackie.

I'm a lifelong resident and citizen of the north end of Detroit.

My parents migrated from the south for economic and educational opportunities and to escape is the oppression of Jim crow laws.

I have family who died for voting rights.

Multi generations of my family have voted in every election in the north and for over 70 years.

We voted for the citizens Redistricting Commission.

I'm outraged that instead of drawing fair districts that give residents a voice, a vote that represents a vote for who represents them, Black districts are cracked, broken up and combined with districts where they can only have a minority vote that can never, I'm sorry I missed it, that can never elect anyone.

The current redistricting map is a modern Jim crow law which only suppresses the Black vote which not only suppresses the Black vote but also nullifies it.

Actions have consequences, was it your intention to disregard the Voting Rights Act.

The proposed map is violated it were you trying to disenfranchise Black voters putting 35% Black voters from a Black District with 65% white voters from a white District Black voters can never win an election.

There are no Black districts in the City that is 80% Black.

These are the consequences of your actions.

This is not post reconstruction south where Jim crow laws reign this is Michigan and I know you want to do better.

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On the north end we had a mixture and affluent and homeowners and connected not divided by Woodward avenue.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Roberta or Bonnie.

>> My name is Roberta a resident of gross isle.

Many things to Commissioners and staff for their hard work on a very challenging task.

For my area the Pine House District map seems most fair specifically for District 23.

In the chary Senate District map seems fair especially for District 12.

On a broader scale I would like to elaborate on a gentleman's in person comment yesterday at the TCF center.

He said that Detroit should not be packed or cracked.

We all know that Black Detroit voters were packed under the 2010 gerrymandered maps.

It seems that in trying to avoid packing the current draft maps now are cracking Detroit voters by slicing the City in Districts that are close but not majority Black.

I don't think that is by racist intent as some people may have suggested.

But I wonder if it is because of fear of the backlash from some white voters in the included communities.

I heard sentiments like that from some Grosse Pointers complaining about being in Senate District 1 when I was canvassing for proposal two in 2017 and 2018.

I encourage the Commission to seriously fulfill their Voting Rights Act responsibilities to create minority majority districts.

While addressing communities of interest as long as that interest is not in remaining white.

That is the elephant in the room is it not? Thank you for this time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is Jerome-R.

>> Good evening, Commissioners I'm Jerome with the Michigan department of civil rights and I have comments on civil rights Commission and the department.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

Please be advised that the department has also submitted a comprehensive analysis of our position in writing.

Which we will send to our stakeholders, post on our website and share on social media.

This Commission has a historic opportunity and profound responsibility to redraw Michigan electorate boundaries as the voting rights says you must the ability of minority to have a voice in their Government and in deciding who represents their interests from the local school board to the halls of Congress.

The maps this body approved on October 11th fail that test.

They dilute minority majority districts and strip the ability for minority voters to elect legislative representatives who reflect their community and affect any meaningful opportunity to impact public policy and law making.

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Make no mistake, the decisions you make and the lines you draw will either protect the rights of minorities or ensure that for a decade to come some Michigan voters will no longer have a voice in decisions that directly impact their lives.

We urge you to meet this test of fairness and accountability and rectify the Voting Rights Act violations inherent in if maps under consideration.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Jennifer Austin.

>> Hello, my name is Jennifer Austin and live in the City of Midland and thank you for dedication of creating maps with 0 political bias we are amazed what you have done but we are not there yet especially listening to comments today and yesterday and work at the maps to reflect the vote share of Michigan.

I would like to talk about P6860 and I place Tuscola in District so as it's a thumb oriented County.

I lived in Nottawaseppi Huron County for 11 years and saw it as part of the thumb.

Like Commissioner Eid's May map 237, I kept Flint and Saginaw Counties whole and added Bay and Midland Counties as I could.

I believe this much of Midland Bay Saginaw and Genesee and they are Mid-Michigan COI and together no matter what the Counties are part of COIs and ask you keep the Tri-City Senate District in cherry map intact and they are a COI that have been long corrected through family arts schools colleges universities and news radio and TV stations and part of the same huge watershed and parts of Midland are regulated by the storm authority. And thank you for the Bay City House District as it is drawn in the Pine map.

We are sister cities with many common ties and this configuration as close to 0 political bias as I think you can come.

Changing that would hurt the overall political fairness of the maps.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. We have one more person who has come in to speak in person so number 96 you can approach the microphone and speak.

>> Hi thank you.

My name is Shaun.

I live in Lansing, Michigan.

In Ingham County.

I'm here to say thank you.

This is exactly the kind of work that mirrors the intention to make a public life that actually serves the public so these are the kinds of things that make people like me hopeful.

So thank you very much.

I appreciate everything you are doing, it may not be the most glamorous but it's the work we need.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Next in line online is Jerad.

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Great, thanks.

Okay my name is Jerad, I'm a resident of Brighton Michigan Livingston County.

And I'm going to make kind of a summary statement.

To wrap things up and talk about some details but very simply number one, thank you for keeping Livingston County together for the Congressional and State Senate maps.

So thank you for that.

And please continue to do that as you continue this process.

The second point is please do not put Livingston County with Washtenaw County for any State House districts.

So I mean in general the people of Michigan voted for the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission so that they would have representation that honors the community.

When you break apart communities arbitrarily focusing instead on partisan fairness or some other number you ignore the will of the voters.

If you want to balance the power between the political parties, do it in the number of competitive seats.

Don't try to break up every community in the state to make every District 50/50.

Honor our communities of interest that were submitted to the Commission throughout the spring and summer.

Communities of interest are a higher constitutional priority.

Than partisan fairness.

Commissioners cannot be expected to be experts on all parts of Michigan.

So listen to us.

Listen to the people.

Who are experts on our communities.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair next in line is Meagan short, number 31.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Meagan short.

>> Hi, my name is Meagan.

I live in Brooklyn.

I want to thank everyone for working so hard to provide fair maps.

This is such amazing opportunity to show what we can do as a state when we work together.

I would like to suggest that the Commission take an honest look at the fair maps project when considering changes.

I would also like to see the Commission make changes to ensure that districts are not diluted results in smaller numbers of minorities.

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If the maps remain as they are our elected officials will not be representative of the diversity that exists in our state.

It's a constitutional duty of the Commission to create maps that result in fair representation.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Now is Amadorie.

>> Hello, you can hear me, right?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, I can.

>> My name is Amadorie from Jackson County.

Thank you all for taking on this very challenging task.

I want to point out to this Commission all draft proposed maps provide disproportionate advantage to the republican party.

I'm strongly and urging the Commission to apply the same metrics for the standard of partisan fairness as are being applied for population deviation.

One way you can fix your map is to draw a true Jackson Washtenaw Senate District. Look at map P6716.

For an example of how to do this.

Dozens of commenters have requested this District.

And your maps are very close but not quite there.

Please don't put Jackson County which is 40% democratic into safe republican seats at every level of Government.

Thank you one and all for your earnest and deliberative attention to this matter.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. We have one more in person comment, 97 you can approach the microphone and speak.

>> Whichever one you would prefer.

>> Thank you, I'm Patricia Johnson.

From East Lansing.

On I'm urging you to pass the Birch map for Congress.

It is the most fair.

Thank you for putting the try County together.

And including Shiawassee and Livingston Counties which include many residents who commute to Lansing.

However, your maps for the State House seem very unfair.

Both the districts for the Lansing region and statewide.

You have packed the most democratic parts of Eaton County into Ingham County District.

This amounts to gerrymandering.

The Friday County is a democratic area.

And we currently have four democratic representatives.

This would reduce it to three.

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I support the map from comment ID06677.

It moves Delta Township and the Lansing portion of Eaton County back into an Eaton County District to unpack democrats.

This step is essential to fair maps.

This plan also divides Ingham County north and south along the Grand River and Grand River avenue.

This approach to our region is similar to what you did with the State Senate map.

It creates fair competitive Ingham and Clinton districts that represent the diverse urban, suburban and rural communities of our region.

The house map needs major changes to create the fair districts that voters want and the Constitution requires.

The party with the most votes should win the most seats.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Okay we are going to back to online which is Nina.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: That participant is not currently present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, what about Chris H.

That is number 34.

>> Hi, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Good evening.

My name is Chris and I'm a lifelong resident of Wyoming a suburb of Grand Rapids.

I want to thank you all for the work you have put into this process.

I think we can all appreciate at this point how difficult your job has proven to be.

I want to highlight today the draft State House and Senate maps for Metro Grand Rapids.

The initial State House you drew for the Metro area were nearly perfect as a Wyoming resident though I was disappointed to see you split the City up unnecessarily a couple weeks ago it's large enough to anchor one District but small enough to take in more territory.

Please consider keeping Wyoming whole and connecting witness the predominately Hispanic neighborhoods along the Grandville avenue corridor in Grand Rapids with similar neighborhoods in northern Wyoming or if not combine Wyoming with the City of Grandville.

For the Senate map all of your maps say for Commissioner Lange keep the same configuration for Metro Grand Rapids.

When I last provided comment at your meetings, I talked about tweaks to the configuration to keep our airport with a City District instead of lumping with far flung communities and keep the Directors out of Ottawa County as many others expressed to do this at the Senate level.

It would make sense on COI and improve the maps on partisan fairness and bring them closer to eliminating undue advantage for other party thank you so much for your time.

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

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Okay, I wasn't sure if I you said my name and I was not on the line but I am so here I am I'm Lena and I'm the vice president of UAW local 652 and I'm on the leadership of President Ben.

And I just want to say that communities of interest is not an excuse to attack voters of a particular party into fewer and fewer to weaken the voice in the state legislature and U suggest maybe look at AFLCIO fair map project for ideas how to get to the partisan fairness while the expecting real communities of interest.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Sarah T.

>> Good evening can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Thank you.

My name is Sarah T and I'm with AIPA vote Michigan.

I'm here today to ask the Commission to revisit the current State Senate map in Troy.

The way it's currently drawn it disenfranchises the AAPI community.

Please consider redrawing the map to include more of Sterling Heights where there is also a large and growing AAPI community.

And I thank the Commission for its time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Connie Robinson.

>> Yes, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Okay great thank you my name is Connie Robinson.

And I appreciate the opportunity to speak this evening.

I'd like to start by thanking, by acknowledging the countless hours and hard work this Commission has dedicated to the redistricting process.

I really appreciate the collaborative maps that the Commission has drawn and appreciate your efforts to draw fair maps.

I'd like to thank you very much for keeping Livingston County together for the Congressional and State Senate maps.

I'm asking you to please continue to do so.

And please do not split up Brighton or put Livingston County with Washtenaw County for any State House District.

Splitting up the Brighton area would be splitting up communities of interest.

I live in Hartland but in Brighton four times a week and go to the farmers market and most importantly go to church in Brighton and it's an important community of interest in Livingston County there are eight of them and half of them also provide K-8 education. Two of the 8 Catholic churches are in Brighton and one of them also provides K-8 education.

So again communities of interest I think are up most consideration when drawing these maps and I respectfully ask that you keep Brighton intact and not place Livingston.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Michael P.

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Thank you I'm Michael P I live in East Lansing.

I've been an almost lifelong resident of the State of Michigan.

For many, many, many years.

I would like to thank first of all I'd like to thank the Commission for all the work you're doing.

As well as the transparency and the opportunity for us to participate that you are bringing to this process.

Balancing the needs and desires of the various and diverse communities of interest in a fair and equitable manner is extremely challenging task.

And I salute you for that.

Two comments primarily.

One is I wanted to mention that I support the Birch map that has been proposed for the Congressional districts.

It seems to make a lot of sense for Eaton Clinton and, Inc come Counties to be included in one District and one that also includes Shiawassee and Livingston Counties as well which are really a part of the work shed that is centralized in this area.

The other thing I'd like to say though as I agree with some of my other speakers who have said that whereas you have done a lot of good work there is a little bit more work to be done in terms of bringing fairness to the house maps.

In particular the maps for the Lansing region have shortchanged the opportunity for fairness with respect to partisan fairness.

Currently the number of districts there are four districts, they are democratic districts.

The new plan.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Matt D.

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> Okay is my background not up? Never mind.

I'm Matt D from Jackson County.

And a time of intense election integrity concerns in Michigan you have the opportunity to be heroes or zeros.

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Most people 25 years or older know the difference between big cities, small cities, suburban cities and country Counties, Country Townships and villages. And people choose to live in a certain community because they have an interest in their community. When you focused on communities of interest you drew good maps then your focus switched and frankly you blew it.

Proposition two voters at politicians was sold to stop politicians from gerrymandering. There are two maps behind me one was used in 2018 to demonstrate the wars of gerrymandering to sell prop two and the other was created by you which one was gerrymandered by politicians and which map is yours.

I can't tell the difference.

Can you? Can anyone? By your own work you're making a bold statement that gerrymandering is okay if it's done by nonelected Commissioners as opposed to those elected and accountable to the people. You as a Commission have two choices. You can restore faith in our constitutional democratic process or you can kick election integrity to the curb.

You have a choice to be heroes or zeros, please be courageous.

Please be heroes.

Thank you for your time.

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

>> Hello I'm from Novi.

I wanted to thank the Commissioners for the work you're doing.

I'm coming commenting tonight to add my voice to the request already made by others.

Please keep all of Novi together in Congressional seat Senate and State House.

Please look at the AFLCIO fair maps project specifically submission P3623.

For ideas on how the get partisan fairness while respecting communities of interest.

Novi has the second largest AAPI community in the state and it should remain together.

In the house maps the size of Novi's precincts including precinct 14 which is more than 60% AAPI are proposed to be outside of Novi.

By doing this you are diluting the voice of a major community of interest.

The draft maps also do not reflect the inclusion of two thirds of the area around Walled Lake which extends as far north of 14 mile and part of Novi.

Novi should be kept together along with South Lyon and lion Township as they also have a growing AAPI community.

The District should also include Northville as Oakland has been part of the Oakland community District the State House and State Senate.

This worked out very well with a shared school District.

Again thank you for your service and your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Next in line is do we have Barb D.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> Hello, I'm Barb D in Jackson County can you hear me okay?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we can.

>> The purpose of proposition two was to stop gerrymandering.

And yet as I look at the new maps, I see a shifting boundaries with communities like Lenawee and Monroe being divided in four different directions.

My little Township has been carved out of its current District.

These maps are not solving the issue of gerrymandering.

Districts are being shifted based on politicians rather than focusing first on communities of interest and each area it serves.

This is partisan gerrymandering.

Please listen to the testimonies you have heard over the past several months.

I attended those public hearings where I heard over and over again loud and clear that the citizens of Michigan asking to keep the urban and rural areas intact.

The urban areas and the rural areas have very different needs for their community.

And we have maps to illustrate the communities of interest and provided solid testimony why these areas need to stay together.

I looked at Peach, Elm and Maple maps those ones seem closest to these COIs but I still see that they need more work.

Your first priority is to follow constitutional law.

And drawing population and demographics.

Secondly the districts must be contiguous.

The next priority must be based on community of interest.

However I see many communities of interest being broken out.

So please remember that the law states the districts should not provide a disproportionate advantage for any political party.

Thank you for the work that you do.

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

>> Yes, can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Yes, thank you.

Really appreciate this time.

My name is Bob from Livonia.

I wanted to bring up again just focus on the House District previous House District of 19 of Livonia and you're proposing in your plans for example in the Pine map of creating new districts of 17 and 14.

In evaluating it and looking at the AFLCIO maps they're suggesting Detroit 8 Redford 10 and Livonia 19.

These will keep the districts split.

It will keep the communities intact.

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Livonia would like to stay Livonia District Redford would like to stay Redford and northwest Detroit would like to keep their District as presented by over 200 people yesterday in Detroit.

I'm recommending that you look at the AFLCIO maps and look at 8, 10 and 19 instead of splitting Livonia in four to five sections and Redford and raising the percentage Livonia has been 50/50 democrat republican with your new proposals that will push the new districts to up to 70% leaning democrat.

And as voiced by all the major amount of participants yesterday at the TFC center in Detroit they want to stay Detroit.

Redford wants to stay Redford and Livonia wants to stay Livonia so look at the Pine map and try to change them back to what AFLCIO recommends and it will make more fair communities for all three of us thank you.

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

>> Hello, my name is Alexis.

I.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Hello Alexis.

>> Sorry, I was born and raised in West Michigan and I would like to thank you first and for most for doing this very important work.

I know it's not easy.

I think the most important aspect that is getting pushed aside is ensuring that we have fair maps.

There should be competition accountability and most of all representation for the people of Michigan.

That's why we votes to have this Commission in the first place.

To put power in the hands of people and not to give an unfair partisan advantage.

One way we can do this is in the City of Kalamazoo for example it should be unpacked into three separate State House districts.

East and west Kalamazoo and Portage are all very different and each deserve to have their voices heard separately.

I thank you so much for your time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission. Thank you concludes our public comment for this evening I would like to remind everybody to go to our public comment tool and share your comments in writing including any specific area of the map about which you are speaking.

The public comment tool is available at [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC).

If you have an all right that's it.

So I was going to add more but I'm not going to.

Without objection I will now have our Vice Chair Commissioner Rothhorn provide acknowledgments.

Hearing no objections please proceed Commissioner Rothhorn.

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>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.

There is a lot of work that comes into putting one of these on.

We want to appreciate the League of Women Voters.

Who worked outside.

They are volunteering at the registration and public portal stations and want to appreciate the MSU students also volunteering at the portal station and Chase Creative providing the audio visual support today and making sure the technology works and we can hear each other, Lansing center and the team and U of M volunteering and Voters Not Politicians also assisting with registration.

Thank you to all those people that make it happen.

And helping and you all who came out and made it doing the #show up speak up to assist the MICRC to #draw fair maps.

Stay engaged with us through e-mail and text alerts a lot of gratitude to you all for being here.

We also have old fashion ways to reach out and stay in touch with us through mail or packing up the phone and calling us at 1-833-you draw.

That is 1-833-968-3729.

I think there is just one more slide.

Yep.

It's the Instagram.

And you can't see it.

I apologize.

I don't know how to make it actually happen.

But it's [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC).

And the handle is at redistricting MI if you want to follow us on Twitter, Facebook Instagram, thank you, thank you, thank you. And I will turn it back to the Chair for adjournment.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you. As the items are agenda are completed and we have no further business a motion to adjourn is in order. May I have a motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Commissioner Witjes.

Seconded by Commissioner Lett.

All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

Opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the meeting is adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Thank you, everybody.