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MICRC

09/23/21 10:00 am Meeting

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: As Chair of the Commission, we will bring the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 10:31 a.m.

This Zoom webinar is being live streamed on YouTube at www.YouTube.com/MICHOS office/videos.

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

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

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

This meeting is also being recorded and will be available at www.Michigan.gov/MICRC for viewing at a later date and this meeting also is being transcribed and those closed captioned transcriptions will be made available and posted on Michigan.gov/MICRC along with the written public comment submissions.

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

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

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hello, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please tell us where you are attending remotely from.
We will start with Doug Clark.

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>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Present.

Brittini Kellom?

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. Attending remotely from Wayne County, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

Erin Wagner?

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

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

And there is a quorum.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you. You can view the agenda at Michigan.gov/MICRC. I would now entertain a motion to approve the meeting agenda. So moved.

Who was that on the first one I didn't catch it?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Witjes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Motion by Witjes and seconded by Commissioner Lett is that right.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Correct.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Seeing none let's vote on the motion being seconded.

All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

All right, The ayes prevail and the motion carries.

So just for the public record so the public is aware typically we would go into public comment at this time but the public is going to be at 1:00 so I wanted to mention that so there is no confusion with the public who might be watching now.

Because we are going to be going right to our unfinished business we are going to pick up where we left yesterday with our unfinished business item completing the mapping of the Senate, I'm sorry the State House Districts in the Metro Detroit area.

We left off with Commissioner Curry.

So Commissioner Curry it will be your turn to direct our map drawers and from the EDS side who is assisting with mapping this morning?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Looks like it's going to be Kent today.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Mr. Stigall will do the mapping, and feel free to address them.

And since I'm not in the room, I will ask my Chair of MC Rothorn.

Thank you very much MC.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: You're welcome.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Good morning, Commissioners.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Good morning, Juanita.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Good morning, everybody.

Okay, I was thinking about going up north to the Flint area.

What do you Commissioners think about that?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: That is a great idea.

We do have Bruce Adelson with us as well if you want advice.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Juanita I'm ready to, I'm at your command.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, can we look at the excuse me, the Flint area, please? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Flint right here.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, okay, now this is for the what Senate? What is this for today? So we need 91, okay.

Let's what is population for Flint.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 81,252 and the cursor is moving like many seconds behind me.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yeah, I see.

Okay so if I did the Flint area and what is that Flint to the west of us too? That is Flint over there to the left? Of the cursor?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Likes like.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Flint Township as opposed to Sinia Flint.

I have highlighted the City but you can't really see it.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I can see it well.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay, there it goes.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Do you guys think we should keep the Township and Flint together? Seeming that it would make up about.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: That is a good question, Juanita.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Flint Township is still about 10,000 people short of the target deviation, target number.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Juanita, I heard you ask the question could we keep it together and Commissioner Clark has a comment would you like to take that now?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, please.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: My opinion is you got too much population to combine the two.

I would recommend taking a look at the Black population in Flint.

And Flint Township and seeing if you want to break it into two districts or one.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay let's look at it, Kent.

Can you put those little, yeah, those little dots out? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I have but I don't see them on the screen yet, on the video feed.

I have them on my computer.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Juanita is it okay if we take one more comment or do you want to keep mapping or take a comment?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: We can take another comment while he is waiting on that.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We have a comment.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Come on Anthony.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Good morning, Commissioner Curry it's nice to see you on the screen and you have a lot of courage going right to Flint instead of suburbs good job.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Am I jumping into dangerous waters?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: No, I think you are jumping exactly where we need to jump.

For the Senate map we talked about a north-south split for Flint so if that helps that might be something to keep in mind for this.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, and you were thinking if we split it what we split the Township or just the Flint City?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I think we went along the Flint river and that probably would be appropriate here as well.

We would have to check the population, but I think it runs against I think the river goes both into the City and the Township.

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>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, Kent, you still haven't got your little dots up yet?

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: The one big Flint dot is up, if I go to voting precincts we can see more.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay can we do that please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is really what we need I believe.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yeah.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: When it comes up eventually you will have the dots and a number in each dot and that is the Black population of that precinct.

I'm looking at it on my screen, have been for a minute, but there is a significant lag in it being distributed across.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay now is this the Black African/American dots? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, ma'am.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, okay, can I also see the it looks like.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Just a minute.

Excuse me, Commissioner Curry, I just had a message pop up that said the Internet connection is unstable.

There it is.

Now it's up.

It takes looks like a minute, minute and a half.

So we have to be patient.

I'm sorry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: That's okay.

That's okay.

That looks nicely spread out.

Can we see the non-Hispanic Black? No, the Hispanic population? Too? If there are any, may not be any.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We have a hard time seeing them both at the same time but I'm going to move out a little bit so you can see the bigger distribution of the Flint area.

There again it's going to take a minute.

I'm looking at a video screen on the wall so I can see when it updates what you're seeing.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, and I imagine Flint, is it more Black African populated than probably any other race? Or do we have.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: If it helps Juanita so I can actually see the numbers on my screen because I'm not dealing with the Internet challenges.

So the total population of the City of Flint is 81,252.

The African/American population is 45,711.

So more than 50% if that helps.

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>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay it did help.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Flint I think it's Flint Township to the west there is 31,447 people.

Out of that 9,800 are African/American.

So about a third of that Township is African/American.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay that sounds good.

Thanks Rebecca.

Okay, now, Anthony you said if we should split it.

Or you all were talking about splitting Flint where would we split it at?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think he was suggesting the river, Juanita.

And I'm not sure if that is the Flint river.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I've been to Flint so many times but I don't remember the river.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is the Flint river right where my cursor is for those that can see it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Did you want to speak?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: No, I'm just following the diagonal with my hand.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, Doug, you guys jump in because I want to do it where everybody is kind of pleased with my decisions.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I mean I would recommend splitting it.

I think you get a better balance between the Black and the white populations.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Lange I see your hand did you want to speak?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Rhonda.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: If I can make a recommendation too I would have them kind of scan out and look at Saginaw also because there's been comments of community of interest about joining Saginaw.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: It is.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: And Flint and Saginaw also I believe has quite a significant amount of African/Americans.

So maybe if there is a way to split it could help you.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: You are right.

Thank you, Rhonda, because you are so true.

I'm very familiar with these areas.

But not familiar with all of the different races that are there.

Let's try splitting it.

Let's look at Saginaw too with that.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Have to be patient.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: A long way between Flint and Saginaw joining any kind of population.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: That is what I was just going to say.
I think it's too far away for a House District.

But if you look around the Flint area, we have those four Townships plus Flint are just about enough for two districts so it's how you want to split it.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Trying to see the Townships I don't see the Townships.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: See the four Townships around and I would say it seems to be a pretty significant west-east imbalance between African/Americans and non-African/Americans and seems like the west side has more African/Americans, the east side has less, so maybe a north-south split would balance the population rather than following the river.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Let's see the north-south split, Kent.
I can barely see these.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Mr. Stigall to do it.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: So my map disappeared, Kent.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I can't see it either Juanita, I think it just closed and they are rebooting.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, all right.
So, okay, who is that?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Go ahead Commissioner Curry and help us know your thoughts.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I was thinking Burton is one of the little four towns outside of Flint is that so?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Burton Grand Blanc, Schwartz creek is associated with that.

That is in the southwest part.

And that was Schwartz creek and flushing which is in the northwest part are all really associated.

Very closely associated with Flint.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, got you.
All right.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: If I may Juanita what I think the key may be is to understand how to divide Flint right the City itself.

And so the suggestion has been made along the Flint river.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I don't know if there are other Commissioners who have another suggestion or if there has been public comment or help us understand a

different northwest or east west, north southeast west split any Commissioners have any thoughts? Commissioner Eid? Yeah, Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: That north south split was the split that was told to us on our public comment tool submitted as a COI so I think that is where we got it from with the map.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Excellent sorry Commissioner Curry what I'm trying to do is help you pinpoint where that north south or what to use, right, because if the Flint river is used that is also sort of a north, south split.

It's just very wavy.

Commissioner Eid was there comment that said use this road? Or use this? What is the dividing line, is there a dividing line like Woodward in Detroit is it a significant east west split?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I'm trying to think.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So the comment I'm looking at is C1916 on our public comment tool.

And it kind of is both the river and I-69.

So those if that is useful.

It's like you know one District is above the highway and the river and the other is below and includes like.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Can we do that Kent.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Curry were you able to hear that?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, let's see what it looks like if we attempt to do that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So shall I essentially select the precinct south of the river in the area of my cursor, is that where we are starting?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yeah, and I'm trying to think.

What is south because I can't see my letters my words on here.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, where his cursor is moving in south of the river, and I believe, Kent, as 69, yep, that clover leaf interchange you will stay south of 69 then as the river sort of goes flows further north.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Well just to be clear, so I can highlight this area right here and that will be in District 26 or 27 is that the plan? I'm going to highlight an area and somebody tell me "Yes" or "No."

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay highlight it for me.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is a couple of precincts or do we want to start more over here?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I think we should start more in the middle.

What you all think? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That actually crosses the University of Michigan Flint crosses the river so we can cut that out with census blocks.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I would offer Kent if you stay there that is 27 and I would offer that that is the let's say the northern begins the northern Section. And south of that, yep, where you connected is the southern Section. And as we head west where Juanita was pointing earlier. We will stay in the south and try to stay south of the river.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay that sounds great.
And what so.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Stay south.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Grand Blanc.

I can't see my little letters they are so tiny I can't see them.

So I'm seeking your help because I can't read the little letters.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Is that the beginning of District 27? Commissioner Curry? I don't know if you can see it.

I'm sorry.

This is Flint hill golf club where my cursor is.

And that is Interstate or highway 69, on the north side.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes MC.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: What I think you've got here what Kent has highlighted is beginning of a southern Flint District.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think he is waiting for your direction to say yes make that District number 27 for example.

You can say that so he can.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: What is the population for that? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That little area right there is just 5,000 people.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Oh, wow.

Okay, then we need -- you can make that 26, but we are going to have to fill it up some more.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Absolutely.

I was just looking for a starting point so we can start adding to it and grow it.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Now do you guys think that the other half would be to the north? Or to the west?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: To the north but I think you can continue south here, meaning you're at the beginning of the District.

And you're going to head into the you're going to head south and into the some of the Townships that you know Doug had talked about and Rebecca I think had talked about, Anthony.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yeah okay.

Let's do Burton.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Do what now Burton.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Add Burton.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm doing it precinct at a time.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'll just add and tell me when I stepped out of bounds as far as where you want to go.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I do want to try to add Grand Blanc.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

And this is the Township of Grand Blanc.

I can add that in and now we have a connection for the whole District.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It's assigning the area to District 27 now.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Uh-huh.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'm selecting Grand Blanc which is 9,000 you still have a long ways to go.

But this is the whole Township of Grand Blanc and the City of or town of Grand Blanc. Is that what we want?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yeah.

What do you guys think?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: You are on, nope, I think you are right on.

We do need a lot of population.

I want to offer the more that you if you stay in the suburban areas population is going to be in the City and go back to the beginning area and just make sure that the City itself has sort of a north-south split.

I think and there is two there is two ideas here Juanita in the City to figure out where the north south split is.

Currently we have that bend at the very northern part of District 27.

Yep, what Kent was just highlighting with his cursor that road is the highway.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: And that's the very southern tip of Flint so there is still a majority of the Flint area is north of that area so the bulk of it will so there is not much of a north south.

It's really just a tip a southern tip and a large northern portion.

So I think what you want to do is just decide if you want to use that 69 or if you want to use the river which cuts up more into the City itself.

But we may be you know we may have to adjust it based on public comment.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yeah.

Okay, let's do some of what is that Lapeer? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, ma'am.

This area here?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Uh-huh.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay I'm just going to select it and then you give the word and we will assign it to your District.

That is not what we meant to hit.

And that crosses over 69 somewhat.

I selected all the precincts in here.

There is quite a few.

It's only 18,000 people.

We can always assign it and then change it or undo it.

Modified.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Is that okay Juanita meaning you want him to assign it?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, please.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think he is just waiting for your direction.

You have the floor, Juanita.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: There it goes.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, good, okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You only need 2800 more people.

You can still.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Can I move to the west a little bit or should I stay right there?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: You should move west into the City more.

You see where the dots are too the African/American population? You have got you don't have many dots.

And what that might mean and I think if you look at the number.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: It's more rural.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: A little more rural we have a rural District and non-Hispanic white almost 72 and non-Hispanic Black at 17% so what you want to do is balance the population grab more African/American to make it more of a balanced population demographic.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Looks like African/American is up there near what is that? What is that? I can't read this.

Where are my glasses at.

I can't read.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This is the this is Bishop international airport.

This is Schwartz creek golf course.

The river is where my cursor flows.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Help me out Rebecca Chair, please.

Any take on that?

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>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Do you want to respond Chair Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, so I just kind of if you want to stay south of 69 you can. Can you back out a little bit Kent so you can see? Most of your population is in Flint. So I would just kind of go a little north into Flint even though you are crossing 69 so that you can balance that population more.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, let's what is that Schwartz creek? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, ma'am that is Schwartz creek golf course.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, can we go across the water right up in there? That is still the, yeah, 1774.

And right there 678 is that 678 or 675? 875.

Okay now what is the population now? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That will basically make it pretty close to perfect.

The target number.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, it looks kind of an ear or something sticking off. I'm not too pleased with it but you know once we get the rest of it together maybe it will look a little bit better.

What do you guys think? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: There is some significant Black population here and here. Which is.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay let's do that.

Let's do that.

You are here.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We can always undo it.

I mean I'm just throwing out ideas here so.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I don't like the little ears up there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So I mean just I'm going to highlight it and then you.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And just throwing stuff out there to and that area all of it is 11,000.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: That is too much though, right? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Where you are at.

Remember you can always remove area that has previously been assigned.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Juanita because you have the themes of the African/American dots I think and again we are trying to get a balanced Black and white population so the areas right I think what Kent was describing right if you want Lapeer heights for example there are not a lot of dots in Lapeer heights so if you remove some of that population you would get a more African/American I think that is what he is suggesting.

You've got an area that has more African/American dots, we have areas that have less. And right now you want to add Black population.

So look at the dots and try to take out the places that don't have dots.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, well Lapeer seems to not have too many dots around it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Agreed.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, well let's take some of Lapeer out.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Do we want to assign this area and unassign that.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Unassign Lapeer and go this way to the west, north, northwest.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, ma'am.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: It was perfect with the ears sticking out.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We can always modify these based on, yeah, this is just there is no we are nowhere near finished.

It's just, you know, making a little change here.

So now you need about 9700 people.

That highlighted area is roughly 11,000.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So if we assign this, then you can.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Still would need roughly about 97,000, right? 9,000? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Well, if we assign this right here you will be maybe a couple 1300 high.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay but we still don't have that Black population in there yet, right? Guys? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We can assign this and see what happens.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: If you direct him to assign the yellow then what will happen Juanita is we will see we can't until you assign it, we can't see how that shifts the demographics.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, let's assign it then.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, one of the other things you may consider after you do that and look at numbers is the southern part of Grand Blanc Township appears to be very heavily non-African/American.

So they be one area where you may want to take that out.

And you end up splitting Grand Blanc Township but move further north where you give a bigger African/American population and that will increase your percentages.

Because right now you've only got non-Hispanic Black she only has 21% compared to 66% white.

I think you want to balance that out a little more.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I do want to balance it out, okay.

Let's take some of that Grand Blanc out and go up north some.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Unassign some of this down here?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

Some more, yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Now you can add in 13,000 more people to choose.

This precinct right here is 16% Black.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, and we really need what percentage?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: That is a great question, Juanita.

So let's look at what we are looking at right now, so we are in District 27.

And if you look at that active matrix that spreadsheet below, on the far right Kent just highlighted it, that box right there says non-Hispanic Black that is the voting age population and we are at 22%.

And according to Lisa Handley's descriptions we want to get to above 40.

We want to be around 40.

Maybe even 50.

And in order to have an opportunity to elect and Flint deserves that.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, let's go up north a little bit where all those dots are.

Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, ma'am this line is Flint proper.

And this is the river.

So I heard people talking about the river being the north-south cut.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL:

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Kent can you raise your mic just a little bit so we hear you better? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You still have quite a bit of population between the river and crossing the river.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, let's do towards the river.

I can't see these little letters, these little words but okay let's go north and what is that Marcan.

I can't read those little letters.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think Kent will highlight in yellow and you tell them if that is what you want.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I wanted it up a little towards the north.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is where I'm heading, I'm just kind of making a line across here you know roughly.

This is the river right here.

And I heard you know y'all talking about river.

And let's throw that one in there.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Mr. Chair.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Basically right there, that number selected will make it pretty much a target, reach the target number if we assign this area.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Mr. Stigall.
General Counsel? They are conferring a little bit.

We will be a minute, Juanita.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: What does that look like to you guys while they are conferring.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: General Counsel or Bruce?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much Mr. Vice Chair.

I wanted to highlight I know that the Commission is looking at the public comment and communities of interest in a variety of data.

But I did want to highlight that Dr. Handley's report did draw out Genesee County results and analysis separately.

And her analysis again this is included in both her included in her September presentation chart.

The percentage of Black vote for an opportunity to elect District is actually 35-40%.

So it is indeed significantly different than some of the other areas in the state.

And again I know that the Commission is looking at a variety of data and demographic indicators and comments.

But I did want to highlight that Dr. Handley's conclusions for that area were different in Genesee County and we are specifically talking about Genesee County.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Excuse me may I piggyback.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I lived in Flint.

I have not lived there in a while but I have been back several times and wanted to point out illustrative there is a significant African/American in the City and the southern suburbs the demographics are different.

So just as an FYI about that.

Also generally and this does not apply to Flint specifically but I would FYI often Interstate highways historically have been used to divide populations demographically.

So I would be circumspect as you approach various jurisdiction to consider using interstates because they have often been the target of various allegations of discrimination.

Thank you.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Commissioner Curry would you like me to assign this highlighted area and go from there?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

I'd like to try to put, you can't see my fingers.

Who is there? That north, yeah that area up in there.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes, ma'am I see that.

Now, the number you're at now, you've reached right at the target number as far as population.

So impact the percentages you would need to remove some areas and then add other areas.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So if you remove let's say 8,000.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay you're at the right place.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You can add 8,000 in another area.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay let's remove some to the south.

What is that the east? Yeah, right where you are.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This is the eastern side.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yeah, let's take some off there.

And I can't read the little letters.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: You're doing great Juanita.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'll unassign it, if you want to put it back, we will put it back.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I don't like how that looks.

What is that Ebestoll Road.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We can unassign more but now you can add in 8,000 people.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay let's go up north and add some people in there.

This looks real crazy though to me.

It looked rigid.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This is the river and could stay south of the river and pick up minority population, majority-minority population.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: But if I went more to the north, up, is that too much? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We will just do it and see what happens.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I will select the area.

I will select.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay if we can get 12, yeah, 19, I don't know what that number is.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: And that is 8600.

So we can assign that and you won't be very -- you will be very close to the target number.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Assign that?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, please.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Commissioners what do you guys think about that?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: What we will do is wait to see how that impacts the demographics non-Hispanic Black age population and looks like it's about 28% for non-Hispanic Black and it's about 61% non-Hispanic white.

Commissioner Lange and then Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: This is probably a little off topic well it's on topic because it's describing Flint but there was also public submission on our Flint hearing that talked about an Arab community of interest.

Does anybody know exactly where in Flint that was? So we can kind of try and not separate it?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I remember them saying something but I can't quite remember where it was, Rhonda.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Will showing the Asian thematic map help find identify that area?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yeah, it would probably, yes.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Arab American I don't know if it would, would it?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I agree with Commissioner Lange.

I don't think the Asian tab is going to highlight the Arab American population.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Bruce where do you think it is because you said you used to live there.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I appreciate that Commissioner Curry.

My time living there and in my subsequent visits I don't recall how large Arab American population.

And I really, I'm not familiar with where the existing population might be.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Oh, okay.

I don't recall any at all either.

And I kind of venture to Flint quite a bit.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: There is because of the COI or Commissioner Eid was talking about the there was a public comment and you named it Commissioner Eid, was it a COI or was that a written? So what you can do is right we do have some data from a COI that talked about the river.

And I think you know trying to follow that COI may be respectful of that community's wishes or at least that one person's version of a COI.

And it may be worth trying to follow the river and capture.

And we are not just staying in the City but we do want to try to raise the Black voting population in order to balance it out.

And using the COI maybe really useful at this point.

I think Commissioner Clark had a question or a comment then Commissioner Eid also has something can we take it now is that okay Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Sure of course.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Commissioner.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Curry yes.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: One thing I think we should keep in mind is this if we keep moving further north, we may reduce the African/American population for the next District because we will get a couple the way we are going.

Keep that in mind so we have enough African/American population for the next District. There is still a couple precincts it looks like that have very small numbers of African/Americans down in the Grand Blanc area that you may consider eliminating to help you with the percentage.

The percentage is 30 and want to get at least 30-45.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Can you do that Kent remove some in Grand Blanc, the removing of some in Grand Blanc.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: If we unassign this area we are moving 5700 still holding on to most of Grand Blanc.

So I'll want me to unassign those and see what we have.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Is that what you're saying Doug?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: It is.

That is part of what I was saying.

The other part is don't use a significant amount of your African/American population in Flint because you got another District coming up.

We don't want the same problem with that one.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Now you can pick up roughly 5,000 people and this is still south of the river.

This area here.

This precinct alone is 80% African/American.

With 1900 out of 2400 people.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Uh-huh.

But we don't -- but we don't need more African/American in this venture here, do we? 27.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We do.

So Kent could you highlight that 29.5% in the Asian excuse me in the active matrix?

The non-Hispanic Black.

So we are in District 27.

And you see that, Juanita? That percentage there is what we are trying to raise.

And every time you add or subtract that is what we are watching.

We are looking at right I think what Mr. Adelson and General Counsel were offering is that we can get to 40%.

We don't need to get to 50% because Genesee is a unique County and we have some information that is specific.

And we are not quite to 40%.

So we want to increase African/American population I think what Mr. Stigall is offering there is a large population of African/Americans there that may work and it looks like to me it looks like it's just south of the river so just close to the COI.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Let's try that, Kent.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You still have a fairly measurable population even adjoining through here so if you so choose you could remove lesser performing precincts, add in some in here, and you could end up where you need to be.

While still leaving a significant number north of the river area for maybe another District.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

Let's take 27.

Let's put 27, where did it go? Let's put that in.

I don't like all these ridges but okay what about if we add 30, what is that? 30, what is that? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That is 3,000.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay let's add that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Now you are up over 31% non-Hispanic Black.

And we need to remove 7,000 people.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay let's go back down here.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Right.

And see if we can do this without destroying the integrity.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Maybe one of the Commissioners can help you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Do you want suggestions here where to take off?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I welcome all suggestions.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I remember earlier you said you really wanted to include Grand Blanc in this.

Are you sure about that?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Not necessarily but I know it's right before you get to Flint somewhat.

Not right before but you know it's one of the first places I see when I'm headed that way.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: There are some African/American dots so it's not wrong to keep it in there but that is the question if you feel strongly about keeping Grand

Blanc in now is the time to decide or if you are not feeling strong it feels it's the south earn most portion and easiest to remove.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Let's take some of the southernmost portion off.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: So I think what Kent highlighted the southernmost portion.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Chip away at it.

Like this, this is I don't know what this is.

So I'm going to click on this and see what happens.

That is part of Grand Blanc.

We can unassign that.

So right there you can drop 10,000 people.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: You could continue doing this.

But we could do that for now.

And see the impact.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Let's do it for now.

Rebecca? Chair? You are looking like what is she doing.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Go ahead Chair Szetela.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: It would be helpful once he takes off what you asked him to, I would like to back out.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Can you back out so we can see.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So your District 27 still needs a few thousand people and there are some minority represented precincts you can add in.

Maybe here, maybe there, you know, without going deep into northern.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I honestly think this looks pretty good.

I would just grab just to add how much are you under 3,000? You've got that 1301 right below, that is part of that Township.

I would just grab that.

Put it in.

That's going to bring you closer.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: And that one.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Maybe the 19 and see what that does to the demographics, distort it.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It will bring it down slightly.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Slightly.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That will bring it up slightly.

So if you added in both of those, you would stay pretty close to where you are at.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Add both of those in.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I was going to say what about up in the City of Flint that 1998. That would add quite a bit.

So into the City boundary.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL:

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Kind of over in that dip.

Yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, that.

83% that would add quite a bit.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: We can do that and you still have this precinct as well that kind of curves around under it.

All of these are south of the river.

And with relatively -- whatever you would like to do.

Add this in?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: What is the percentage of 3472 because that is about what she is under, 41.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It would impact it upwardly.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: What do you think, which one 3472 or 1998.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I would take 1998 because you are trying to bump up that number a bit and possibly the 1149 next to it depending on what the balance there is.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: They are contiguous to what you are doing.

So yep, that right there.

And that brought you up to 34%.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Brought it up 1%.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Just that one District what is 1149 right next to it what is the percentage there? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 84.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I would put that in too and should be at 35% which is pretty good.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: How does that look to you guys MC, Doug?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I mean I thinking I agree with Chair Szetela and I think we did get counsel that we need to be around 40% from right from General Counsel and from Mr. Adelson and I think we did get some and seeing some nodding heads that we do want to increase our area because the Genesee area of Flint specifically was evaluated with a percentage that needed to be higher.

So I think what you may want to do at this point Juanita is keep looking at the black dots like you a Chair Szetela have been doing and adding more black dots and the adding the population you need to respect that river boundary if you can.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay this 3472 is that respecting the river boundary? If we did the 3472 with that?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Chair Szetela may have.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I just have a question are we aiming between.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: May I suggest removing?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Go ahead Chair Szetela.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Are we aiming 30 or 40% or trying to get to could we repeat what the number is we are looking for?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think we are in danger here because we are trying not to actually go to a percentage and trying to use communities of interest as much as possible.

Get to the ideal population and a balanced population but we are trying to respect what the communities have given us as much as possible and not necessarily going for a number but there was analysis that minimum 40%.

Right.

And that is different than what we've had in the past with that minimum has changed. It's just that we are right we are not going for a percentage.

That is not our goal here.

We want a more balanced population and minimum of 40% again using what the communities have given us which is a community of interest and I think that is where Anthony helped us with the river boundary and trying to respect that boundary as much as possible while recognizing the Black population has to be at a minimum, there is a minimum percentage which is closer to 40.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: So if we add 3472 that would not bring it up some?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Good question Juanita.

Mr. Stigall has a comment.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I might suggest that we create a District 28 in the northern half of Flint just to see about what you have as you add and remove area from one District to the other District.

Rather than focusing on basically we are focusing on a single District in the middle of an ocean of unassigned area.

So if we did 28 let's say just roughly up in here somewhere.

You kind of see both sides of the coin at the same time.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay let's try that then.

See what it looks like.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I'll just draw 28 encompassing this area and then just go from there with your 27.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: That makes sense just for you know not.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Does that make sense to you guys? .

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>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So if we made that 28 right now, and we will even go over here.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: You are getting nodding heads Juanita so the answer to your question is yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Make that a 28 and see what it looks like.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Looks good to me.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Just a holding block you can unassign that and we will do that now and remove that.

And okay we will just leave it something.

I'll add more to it.

We will just make that 28 is everybody okay with that? You can just deal with that area hold.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yeah, I think so.

You guys okay with that? Okay good.

I see thumbs up.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So 28 is 48% non-Hispanic.

You still need to add you know 23 to it.

So if you added that area up there, that 48% would come down.

But that is roughly what you know you all are talking about a north and a south District.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay MC, Doug? Don't go quiet now.

If we let's add.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We are okay.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Let's add that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Add more to 28.

So.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I did not know I was getting into something like this when I chose.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: You are doing great Juanita.

This is what we need.

Thank you.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: District 27 is at the quote target ideal District number.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So you know, if you add -- you can add to it.

But you might consider then taking some away to get where you want to go.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: No we will leave it like that for now.

Do we need to work on 28? What is that? 28 up there.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Juanita, you're asking some great questions.

I see Commissioner Orton's hand and I want to, yeah, give her the floor for a minute.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes please.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So thanks Juanita.

Since what Kent has temporarily put in District 28, it looks to me like the voting age non-Hispanic Black population is 48%, which is higher than we need.

But the one we are working on 27 is lower than we need.

So if we just go up maybe in the middle where population is higher, we can look at some of those dots and choose precincts that have a high percentage.

And move them down.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Let's do 3472.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I like to remind everyone you still have 23,000 to put in 28. So looking at the dots if you go outside of here it is going to decrease that percentage, right?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I did not see that and thought they were both at about population.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Something to consider is just you know, get this District closer and then you know work between the boundary between 27 and 28.

The balance it.

Whichever how you want to do it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Juanita we have one more tool I think we might want to I think many of us we only had one we only referenced one community of interest. And there have been other submissions from Flint. And I have a list of four here. And I am wondering, Kent, what I think, Juanita, we might see if we can pull up the overlay and help us see how can we respect the different.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: That would be good.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay and Kent so if you are able to pull these up so the earliest one, I have is from July 30th and I do have the C. What I don't have unfortunately is I have the you know community of interest ID. So there is C1916.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Bring it up and we will find it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Earliest ones and the other ones are closer in September.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So it is C.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: 1916.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 1916.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: This is the one that Anthony referenced earlier that was about the river.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yeah.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It's a large area.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay, wow.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It will light up.

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It will come up here in just a moment.

Yeah, it's that larger red line.

So it's essentially just looking at it, it goes, what is the vast all of Flint and most of the surrounding Flint Township all the way around it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yeah, but that is going to be, yeah.

I don't know if we can -- okay let's try a couple other ones.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: C4973 from September.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I don't have that.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: It maybe I was worried about that in September, we might not have them.

Okay what about this is the earliest in September C4039.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: 4039.

Not found either.

I will look to see if I have a newer COI but that is 9, 13, 21 I think that is the latest I have September 13.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: From September 13th.

Okay, so, yeah.

So I'm not sure that this one is going to help us very much.

You've gotten some good feedback from Commissioners here who think that it's reasonable.

What we have, what you have drawn these two districts helps us.

Where do you want to go Juanita? The floor is back to you.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I kind of thought that we go into what District 28 is that what it is that we have made? Above.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Green is 28 and the brown one is 27.

Commissioner Clark has a comment.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would almost ask Kent to get District 28 almost fully populated and that way you can see the impact when you take things from 28 and put them into 27 and vice versa.

I still think we have room a little room in 27 to add.

Because we are only down 329 people.

But I would want to see 28 as a model of what it might be.

Not that it's going to be that.

And because it's going to be largely white population.

And so that 48.17% you got in 28 now is going to be significantly reduced.

I'm expecting it to be between 35-40%.

But we don't know until we take a look at it.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Nothing we can assign anything and unassign anything.

Nothing is cast in stone.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Let's take a look at what Doug just said.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So y'all tell me assign.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would go to the west flushing.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: There is some throw that in y'all think?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, yeah.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I got a thumbs up.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Just a reminder to Commissioners and consultants not to speak over each other.

It makes it difficult for the interpreters.

Thank you.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Apologies.

Where do the Commissioners want to go from here?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: What about some of Genesee?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yep.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: If you take a look at the community of interest that we just had up, it flowed to the west.

And not to the east.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: So I would tend to go to flushing, yeah, see how it flows to the west.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Flushing will be good.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: That is what I would look at, yeah.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So that is all of flushing and that will be pretty close to the target number.

So if we assign that you can look at your% percent and get a base how to fit these two districts together.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: That looks kind of okay.

What do you guys think?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, it's worth trying.

Thank you for directing it, Juanita.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Technically both those districts are with less than 1% away from being ideal.

And one District is 34.73 and one is 37.42.

There is you know some represented dots.

They are not big numbers.

So they are not going to have big influences.

But you can include them.

This is I believe part of is this part of Flint is up in here, isn't it?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So this is part of this greater Township.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yeah, why don't you add that.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: The 27.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yeah, because it will keep it from looking so Zig-zag.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Voting population, voting population on 27 and 28 and what we've seen by doing this is 28 has been reduced.

The non-Hispanic Black has been reduced by 10%.

And now it's between the 35-40% range.

But if you move people from 28 Black population in from 28 into 27 it's going to reduce 1% and add to another percent.

So I'm not sure how beneficial it is going to be to move any significant amount seeing that.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: It may be worth pausing here because we do, the reason we are talking about balanced population we want an opportunity to elect District and want to talk about people being able to elect the representatives they choose.

I wonder if we, yeah, just what I'm thinking about this Juanita is I'm wondering if you feel good enough right here to sort of get analysis because like Doug was saying we may want to switch some places but it's going to affect it.

So maybe we want an analysis because we have Mr. Adelson here what do you think?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, I would welcome an analysis.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay.

They are conferring and they will be ready in just a minute.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Mr. Adelson would you help us understand districts 27 and 28 please?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: As General Counsel Pastula indicated a few minutes ago.

Dr.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Can you talk more in your mic.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Dr. Handley's analysis comes in Genesee County for ability to elect based on racially polarized voting study.

35% to 40%.

And that's what she and I had discussed with everyone at the Ann Arbor meeting.

So that I think is the area the general range that we are looking at.

So that and the moving past the population, the as you can see in the City of Flint, City of Flint downtown, north and west.

That's where the majority of the Black population is concentrated.

Keep in mind that please don't put any weight on the overall minority population.

Because we have no data or analysis about how different groups vote together.

Whether they are cohesive or not we just don't know that.

So my recommendation is that we look for to fit within Dr. Handley's analysis.

And to preserve the ability to elect.

I certainly agree and General Counsel and I have been talking about the communities of interest and we certainly concur that should be a significant part of the exercise.

So the right now the voting age population and also the percentages that Dr. Handley identified are VAP.

They are voting age population.

Not overall population.

So that 35-40% range is something that I think we would agree is the goal.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you it looks like we are a little bit low on voting age population for non-Hispanic Black in one District.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Rothorn? Just wanted to repeat Commissioner Wagner has her hand raised you can't see it but she does.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Wagner please.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Commissioner Curry I looked up Dr. Duchin's report and C-9196-2 it references the Arab American community as of 20,000 strong in Metropolitan Flint.

So I don't know if you want to take a look at that and see if we are cutting it in half or not.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Right, that is a good thought.

Yes, we can check that out, Kent, make sure we are not cutting them in half.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: I will see if it's available in this COI.

My apologies.

Let me get that on there.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Kent do you need Commissioner Wagner to give you the number again from the cluster? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: It is C-1916-2.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: It appears that you know the earlier we had C1916-1, which is -- was everything north of here.

So I'm guessing the same person drew this because it's the exact same boundary too here.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yeah.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So we can turn I don't know if we can't really turn both of them on but you can see.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I recognize the boundaries you were essentially Commissioner Curry I think you were trying to draw in that number 27 within those areas.

And we our Black population was too low and this is a VRA voting rights District that we have to pay attention to the Black population so I'm not sure we will be able to comply with both.

The wishes of the Arab American community here and the Black population.

So at this point I'm wondering you've led us in this direction.

It looks I think we have gotten a lot of and feedback we should.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: A lot of insight.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: A lot of insight and looks like we've got we are a little bit low in District 27 in terms of the percentage of non-Hispanic Black.

And we can tweak that liter.

We've got 28 is a little bit high.

And not high enough potentially to be dilutive if you are willing to let it go here, we might be able to have the Secretary of State give you some questions.

Oh, and Commissioner Clark looks like he has a thought too.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I think we should tweak it.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I do too.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: So it does not slip our minds because it will be one small precinct or something and adjust it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Tweak away.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Let's tweak it and thank you guys.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Let's tweak.

You want to lead us? .

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: This one precinct or something in here.

You got a little one there.

It's going to be you're going to be really splitting hairs to get around it, 35 and 37%.

So really you can only bring one down one percent and bring the other one up maybe one percent.

So.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: That was the thought.

Where that 774 that maybe the right spot Juanita, yeah, where Kent's cursor is now that may be something to try.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Assign that to 27?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: So this is .39% higher you know.

I don't know if we are getting down tenths of a percent.

We can continue on though.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Want to keep tweaking Juanita?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I wish we could fill in some of this a little higher but yeah.

What do you think?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think Commissioner Curry is looking for insights and I think Bruce Adelson may have some.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: We may have a thought about trying to pinpoint information about the Arab American population.

Kent, can you put up the 2018 gubernatorial election? That was the election that had an Arab American candidate in the demographic primary.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: Yes.

Was it the Governor.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Yes Governor 2018 primary.

>> MR. KENT STIGALL: The primary.

I'm sorry.

I was right the first time.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Yeah, there we go.

Okay this is 27 and 28 in the EI-Sayed percentage is on the left of 27 is about almost 26%.

And 28 is about 20%.

You can see that EI-Sayed lost the primary to the other two challengers.

So that may suggest that the unlike in some of the communities districts we saw in the Detroit area, the Arab American population could be too small to influence the election and also may not vote cohesively because we are not seeing the same numbers as I recall we saw 67% 42%.

And I think one or two in the high 30s, so that would be my excuse me inference.

That the Arab American community is much smaller here.

And they may not vote cohesively.

So the election results unfortunately are not telling us what we thought they might as far as the location and numerosity of the community.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, no I agree with everything Bruce just said.

I mean this Flint isn't like Dearborn or Dearborn Heights for example where you have a large concentration of Arab Americans.

So honestly even though that one map that we got has is about that community I think overwhelmingly it's more African/American community.

Something we might want to look at see if there is a primary in this area that had a Black candidate to see if we can determine if -- the only issue I'm having with this let's say I think that it's Flint, it's probably going to vote democrat in the general election.

But as far as the primary election do those people Black people in this case still get the candidate of choice in the primary? Much like the Arab population in Dearborn.

Might be good to see if there was a primary with a Black candidate in this area.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Commissioner Eid I think that is a great point.

As we always said having more data and I think we talked about this just yesterday is always better.

So to the extent that there are additional primaries, elections it could be helpful, I think.

Sorry I don't want to speak for you.

General Counsel and I would agree.

I know we discussed this a lot previously.

So, yes, if there are primary results, we can get that has the candidates that can illustrate these points I think we absolutely should have them.

And they should be included.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I will just acknowledge I see the districts on the left side here thank you Kent and EDS for helping us see it clearly as we are looking at the active matrix that took place overnight.

Thank you for making that happen.

I am wondering because we've got the districts highlighted do, we want to look -- it looks like eyeball looks like an opportunity to elect District is that fair to say? Just make sure we have that kind of review?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Looking at what is on the screen I would agree.

We could look at the whole slate.

I have to go back to what Dr. Handley analyzed and concluded in early September.

That her threshold is the 35-40%.

Which is I agree with that.

So remember it's really important to realize, I know that these numbers look golden in the sense that they are sure these are all estimates.

And/or extrapolations so that is why she and I concur and I think that is the best practice in the industry to have some leeway when we are in the situation we are.

Because as I said they are estimates.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Mr. Adelson.

We have a thumbs up Juanita from Secretary of State.

Thank you for drawing our two districts in Flint.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Thank you guys.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: And I believe we and you have a thumbs up from several Commissioners here too Commissioner Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Thank you guys thumbs up to you guys.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN:

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So MC we are supposed to be taking --

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We lost your audio Chair Szetela.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Can you hear me now.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, so we are supposed to be breaking for recess in 7 minutes.

So do we want to get started with Commissioner Eid? Or does it make more sense to just sort of recess right now and then come back at 1:00?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Recess now.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I heard recess from Commissioner Curry.

Sorry Commissioner Eid has a thought too.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Commissioner Eid.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: It's up to the body I can go now, I can go after lunch.

Sounds like everyone wants to break so we can recess now.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right.

Hearing no objections we will take a recess.

All right. Not hearing any objection, so it's 11:53 right now, let's take a recess and we will reconvene at 1:00 p.m. sharp.

Thank you, everybody.

[Lunch recess]

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

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Can everyone hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We can.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Fantastic. All right, as Chair of the Commission I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 1:02 p.m.

For the purposes of the public watching and for the public record I will turn to Department of State staff to see who is present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Hello, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please Tell us where you are attending remotely from.

We will start 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.

Brittini Kellom?

Rhonda Lange?

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

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>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> COMMISSIONER ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

Present; attending remotely from Wayne County Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Present.

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

And there is a quorum.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you. 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 public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so.

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

First in line to provide public comment is number one you are now invited to address the Commission.

>> Hello, hi name is John.

I have seen initial maps for redistricting.

These maps are a picture of gerrymandering.

Look at the map and then read the definition of gerrymandering they are the same.

I know the two thirds of Redistricting Commission is partisan democrat or partisan republican.

These members favor gerrymandering as long as it meets the objective to create districts their party can win.

If accused of gerrymandering they can say the process was open with input from thousands of residents.

They can say you adjusted lines only to consider, quote communities of interest,

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You can say you agreed with people who want districts containing only residents that agree with their views and if they go to different churches schools or different, organizations or political affiliations they don't want them in that, District.

I advocate or non-gerrymandered District.

Districts in the state.

The computer can draw square districts.

They may be slightly rectangular but each Congressional District should have only four sides. To allow square districts to stack up there may be a need for a six sided District, a notch and a corner to allow squares to fit.

If you have more than 8 sides in a District, it's gerrymandered. The maps I have seen have districts with 10, 20, 30 sides.

I have drawn maps. It will work. My map is not what I'm asking this Commission to adopt.

I'm asking you adopt a process to have square districts or rectangular as close to square as possible.

Justice should be blind.

The computer can draw the districts.

The process is what is important.

Not, quote, communities of interest where we fight to have people like us and to keep out people not like us.

To those who say you can't have square districts, I remind them, County lines are square and shaped and do not bend around cities and villages. Voting Districts can do the same.

My message don't perpetuate gerrymandering. Create maps with political districts that are square or rectangular, six sides at the most. Thank you.

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

Number two.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I'm not seeing movement in the room for number two.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Last call for number two. If not, we will move on to number three.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Also no movement in the room.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Let's move on to number four.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Number four is approaching.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

>> Hello.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

My name is Michael Fields.

I live in Tobacco Township in Gladwin County and places me in the fourth Congressional District.

This District needs to be redrawn so that it is a fair number of democrats and republicans.

Currently the fourth District is so gerrymandered in favor of republicans that our Congressional representative was willing to have votes, willing to have our votes in the 2020 election nullified by signing on to a lawsuit brought forth by the Texas Attorney General.

Two days ago he voted against raising the debt limit.

This means that he is willing to bankrupt our nations in hopes of building a political advantage for his party.

This would stop Social Security checks from being issued as early as October.

I am willing to assert that he feels it doesn't matter because he will not be voted out of office due to the way that the District is currently drawn.

I'm asking you to apply political filters to, excuse me, I'm sorry.

I'm asking you to apply political filters so that of the data at every step.

We need to develop maps that have as little political bias as possible.

If you wait until the end to look at the partisan ballot, if you look at the end to see the partisan data, it may be too late and cause you to start...have to start over again or end up with districts that are not fairly drawn as they could be.

I'm hoping that this District is fairly drawn.

So either party has a possibility of winning and the politicians will need to be held accountable by their constituents.

Thank you.

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

Number five.

>> Good afternoon.

My name is Christine from Gladwin County, in the fourth District.

First, I want to thank all of you for your work and dedication that you've already given to this project.

I was not aware until yesterday of all the hours, travel time and family sacrifices you have made to participate in this process.

That said, I believe the Commission has unintentionally moved to the right over the entire State of Michigan resulting in a political bias.

That's because you have not used all the tools you have available to you.

We can't have fairness without looking at partisanship at every step in this process.

At this stage in the mapping, all political interests should -- [no audio]

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Chair Szetela, can you hear us now?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: You guys cut out at 1:08 on the comment. The live stream sort of froze up.

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>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Ma'am, do you remember hearing I think there was a repeat, you repeated yourself twice you said something like you have not done that does that sound correct.

>> I can start from there.

From what I can see of the maps, this has not been done.

I repeat, this has not been done.

You can't wait till the final week to bring the political parties into the mapping.

Which is the most important thing.

You cannot ignore partisan data when drawing the maps.

It would be like packing the districts.

I would urge you to start over.

Yeah, like right you really want to start over.

But you will end up with a much better product.

And that is the ultimate goal of having the Commission in the first place and why everybody in Michigan voted to have the Commission in the first place.

So I thank you very much.

Oh, and don't tempt God.

Everybody please get your vaccine so that you can protect yourself and protect everybody else you love.

Thanks.

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

Number six.

>> Thank you for taking your time to do this.

I just want to say the whole purpose of redistricting is to make sure there is no bias, to make sure that each District is represented with equal amounts of democrats and republicans.

By not taking that into consideration as you begin your redistricting maps, you are kind of putting the cart before the horse. You would not put siding on a house and not measure first because that is the important thing. You need to get numbers and measure and need to know what is going on.

We need to look at the number of democrats and the number of republicans before we start drawing lines.

Otherwise, you're going to get done and see we have 20 percent here and 30% there a difference and you will have to start all over.

It's going to be a waste of time.

Please take into consideration the number of democrats and your number of republicans in each area. When you have an equal number, then start drawing lines please. Thank you.

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

Number seven.

>> Hello. My name is Resha Crawford and I live in Mount Pleasant. Thank you for the work you are doing. Democracy in Michigan rests on your shoulders and I know the weight must feel heavy so it is of utmost importance.

I'm in favor of keeping Alma and Mount Pleasant together in a house together, that makes a lot of sense. We share winter binds. We are both collegiate towns. There is a lot of cross over both personally and professionally within these communities. And it makes sense that they would be together in a house District.

We know often times that partisan gerrymandering is used as a way for politicians to get away with racial gerrymandering.

And partisan gerrymandering is harmful to our democracy.

Please take into consideration the prioritization of drawing maps that are reflective of objective of objective party proportionality.

Thank you so much.

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

Number eight.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: You're welcome to address the Commission.

>> Hello. My name is Dennis Cole. And I reside in Midland County. First of all, thank you for your willingness to serve and this opportunity to make this public comment on such a significant issue.

In regards to the Congressional maps, Midland County should be kept with the rural counties of Gladwin, Isabella and Gratiot as well as the City of Midland. Midland County needs to remain whole for appropriate representation.

Historically Midland County has had a strong agricultural presence in this part of the state.

Thus aligning with rural communities.

The Tibawassee watershed also combines us with Gladwin, Isabella and Gratiot. I'm an avid kayaker. And the Chippewa, Pine and Tibawassee are all interconnected and come together at the church in Midland.

It would appear the Commissioners may have misunderstood the connection that Midland, Gratiot and Isabella County have in this matter.

We, all of these counties are in the same boat as a result of the catastrophic flood in 2020 that hit national news. If these counties are separated on the District map, the continuous action that is in the process for recovery for everyone will have a high likelihood of being fragmented.

The Great Lakes Task Force involves all of these counties, thus better representation if all these counties are together, specifically all of Midland County remain in this entirety. Interestingly enough, in the 2000 census, Midland lost its Tri-City designation due to the population shift.

This provides further reasoning on why the City of Midland and Midland County are more aligned with rural communities westward as I previously stated.

I also presented in the meeting in the May of this year. I've worked in the medical center in Midland for over 40 years. We have shared a community of interest in sharing of patients and all of these years.

In summary, I would like to say, ask you please keep Midland County whole, not split and keep us in the rural Counties of Midland, Isabella and Gratiot in the Congressional District. This will best serve us and represent us fully. Thank you.

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

Number nine.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Please proceed.

>> Hi everyone. My name is Nathaniel. I came up here from Waverly to share some of my thought us about my community and the way it fits into this process with you today.

So, first of all, thank you all for taking on this task in favor of politically fair representation for our communities across the state.

Waverly and Dewitt in particular are part of the Greater Lansing region and should be represented as such in the State House.

They have a lot more in common with East Lansing than with the rural areas to the north of us.

And Dewitt, in particular there's a downtown with bars and breweries thanks to the growing population.

And there is also a significant economic connection with nearby MSU as well as people commuting from Dewitt and Waverly to work in Lansing.

And I'd also like to say that in the recently published draft of the State Senate map, I did like the way that the Lansing area was sort of split in half.

I think that would do a lot of good to create more competitive races in those two districts as well as not going too far to overly divide the Lansing area.

So, once again, thank you so much for your time and for taking our communities into consideration.

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

Number ten.

>> Good afternoon.

Hi. My name is Sierra Lowe. I grew up here in Mount Pleasant and graduated from CMU. And thanks for the chance to speak today and for the work you are doing.

I was a big supporter of the proposal two in 2018. And I appreciate that your current drafts are different from the old gerrymandered.

My comment today is as you continue to draw maps, you should check partisan fairness each step of the way and not worry about County lines, keeping cities together or irregular shapes.

What is most important is, of course, partisan fairness.

While some districts might clearly lean to one party or another and other districts are in between, the overall map should not give an advantage to one party or the other. I hope you keep that in mind throughout your process and thank you again.

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

Number 11.

>> Hello.

My name is Yasha. I'm from Lansing.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today.

And thank you for the work you've been doing.

I know it's been difficult to take all these considerations into one scope.

But it's very important.

And I want to thank you for that.

So I wanted to comment in particular about political fairness and partisan fairness.

And how I think the Senate map draft you have around Lansing addresses this in a good way.

Similar to what the previous commenter suggested is that splitting Lansing up into those two separate Senate districts makes a lot of sense.

And splitting cities like Lansing was a great way to include communities of interest and make the map more fair.

With that in mind, I live in south Lansing. And I think that we deserve to have our own State House seat connected with Delhi Township.

And splitting Greater Lansing into up into five or more districts would help partisan fairness and would let the south side community have its own voice.

Thank you for your time.

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

Number 12.

>> My name is John. I'm from Mount Pleasant Michigan. And I'd like to thank the Commission for their dedication and hard work.

I know it's not an easy job.

I was personally elated when proposition two passed because of my longstanding concern with gerrymandering in Michigan, which was ranked among the worst gerrymandered states in the United States.

And having been a resident of Mount Pleasant for over four decades, I as a citizen lived under gerrymandering from the standpoint of having, you know, having people in office who were incumbents who really didn't have to be accountable, who didn't have to worry about getting elected who could ignore communities of interest, and really ignore my interests, my values and my beliefs.

And so, from my standpoint, I believe that the correction of gerrymandering should be the primary work of the Commission.

And that the goal primary goal should be the creating of fair districts so that no District ideally at least should be -- have any less than 45% of partisans of one party nor more than 55% of partisans of the other party.

Thank you.

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

Number 13.

>> Good afternoon.

I'd first like to thank you all wholeheartedly for the opportunity today to speak on the deep importance of redistricting in our State of Michigan.

My name is Katie Ellison. I'm a junior here at Central Michigan University majoring in political science. I'm also taking part in a college student redistricting fellowship with the organization campus vote project, an organization that is empowering college students like myself to have a real role in our state's redistricting process.

I was born and raised in Midland, Michigan about 30 minutes east of here.

I feel it important to note the community I do come from, Midland and the Tri-Cities of Saginaw and Bay City, are unfortunately gerrymandered.

This results in a great amount of misrepresentation of the people that live there.

However, I'm here to talk to you today in a sort of cautionary tale. Please do not let this community that we are meeting in here today, the City of Mount Pleasant and our community and the campus of Central Michigan University have that same unfortunate fate.

Our community is currently entirely in the 33rd State Senate District, in the 99th State House District.

When I first arrived at this community, I truly felt like an integral part just from my first steps.

When I drive into town, I pass the pumpkin patch that student organizations host events at in the fall, along the goats and the tiny hill which claims to be the one and only mountain of Mount Pleasant. I pass by local restaurants and small businesses, the ones you will find student both working at and shopping in.

What I'm trying to say is that this community is one wherein you cannot separate one person from the culture.

When the gates open on game days, the greater community always comes out in maroon and gold to fire up. I share this not to pander but to implore you not to split up this committee.

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

Number 14.

>> Hello. My name is Jennifer Austin and live in the city of Midland. I have lived in Midland County both the rural and City and the thumb for my entire life. And I'm very familiar with both areas and the difference between their rural and suburban settings and needs. I would like to thank you for placing the Tri-Cities together in Senate District

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1. Midland, Bay City and Saginaw have been a community of interest far longer than I've been alive. But we have been split due to gerrymandering. I appreciate the Commission putting us back together.

I also went through and tabulated all of the comments in the portal, online portal pertaining to Midland. And of the 200 -- these together that is 64%.

The support for this is overwhelming.

And of those 145, 47 specifically refer to the Tri-Cities in Flint, Genesee County as a Congressional District.

So I ask that you put the City of Midland together with one Congressional District.

These four cities create the core of Mid-Michigan and suburban and urban areas and should be represented together.

I have several maps here by myself and others to demonstrate how that can be done with close to 0 political bias. I ask you to take in consideration that rural areas have specific needs and urban and suburban areas have specific needs. It is more important to allow them to elect representatives that will represent their needs best than to keep counties whole.

The Commission is doing a good job of moving closer to the middle and reducing political bias in the maps, but we still have work to do. And I implore you to use the partisan data as you create maps so they have as close to zero political bias as possible.

I have a Senate map here that does it as an example.

Michigan is a swing state with a split electorate and our maps should reflect that.

It's imperative that the Commission create maps that give the people the power to elect the representatives rather than the maps choose the representatives for them.

Thank you.

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

Number 15.

>> Hello. My name is Molly M and I've been a resident of Midland for 32 years.

First, I want to thank you for your work that you have done on this Commission.

I'm sure it's been difficult and you've sacrificed your time to serve the people of our state.

I would also like to thank you for the most current State Senate map and the fact that you recognize that Midland is a City and a vital part of the Tri-Cities.

Now, I would like to ask you to continue to view Midland as a City and a vital part of the Mid-Michigan corridor.

The current Congressional map you have drawn has removed Midland from the Tri-Cities.

I heard that the Commission was concerned that Midland would dilute the bait if left in with Bay City, Saginaw and Flint. But that is actually not the case at all.

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Although Midland is predominately white compared to Aranac, Tuscola and even Bay City, Midland has a slightly more diverse population according to the 2020 census data. I also know you have had many comments that Midland is a rural community, but we are far from it.

We are manufacturing community just like the rest of the cities in the Mid-Michigan corridor.

Midland County is a rural community, but the City of Midland is not.

But my biggest request of you today is to do exactly what the Commission was established for, to create fair maps with the total state political bias is as close to zero as possible.

I noticed that there is a new feature on the mapping website added yesterday.

And that the VRA data is right at the bottom of the screen.

I would ask that you put partisan data right at your disposal when making the maps from here on out.

I know there are many tools you could use to evaluate the partisan data and it's the main reason that people of our state voted to create this Commission, to create fair and equal maps. So I'm requesting that you add the partisan data right now, not at the end. The sooner you get this data in front of you the sooner you will be able to accomplish fair maps. And thanks again for your hard work.

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

I believe I'm on number 16.

>> Good afternoon.

My name is Ron Parmalee. I'm from Midland.

I have lived there since 1977. So I feel like I have a good feel for not only Midland but this eastern part of the State of Michigan.

I'm in favor of a U.S. Congressional District that includes the cities of Midland, Bay City, Saginaw, and Flint.

All four have a strong industrial economic base, from the auto industry, GM next here, others in Bay City, Saginaw and Flint.

And the chemical industry in Midland.

From Dow Chemical, DuPont, Corteva and Trenzio. None of the cities is a rural-based community.

The Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission has an opportunity to eliminate the gerrymandered districts created by the Michigan legislature in the past.

The four cities of Midland, Bay City, Saginaw and Flint not only create a community of interest but together would help create a fair District with the objective of accomplishing as close to zero political bias as possible.

I would hope that the Commission is and will look at partisan data throughout the redistricting process.

For the Congressional reps, the State Senate and State Rep Districts so that maps are drawn with the least political bias.

Thank you.

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

Number 17.

>> Good afternoon.

My name is Kathy L and I reside in Midland County and I've lived there for over two years.

First, I want to thank you for holding this hearing in our region.

Isabella County and Midland County have a long history of shared interests. And it's very much appreciated that you made this hearing in our region.

For Congressional maps, Midland County should be kept whole.

And the entire Midland County should remain with the following rural counties: Gladwin, Isabella, and Gratiot. And here is why: One, traditionally Midland County has always been in a westward facing Congressional District.

And that makes sense because of the strong agricultural presence in this part of the state.

You may also be interested, number two, you may also be interested to know that in the 2000 census Midland lost the Tri-Cities designation due to a population shift. And, therefore, the City of Midland should not be carved out and lumped in with Bay City, Saginaw and Flint.

The City of Midland has more in common with western facing rural counties.

And, number three, the Tibawasse watershed convergence these county shares is another reason. The Tibawasse River starts in Gladwin and runs through Midland County. The Chippewa River runs through Isabella County and it's a tributary of the Tibawasse River. These rivers meet in the City of Midland.

Gratiot County, the Pine River runs through Gratiot County and continues through Midland County where it flows into the Chippewa river.

These rivers come together in downtown at the Trig.

When it floods all of these counties and communities have a need for common representation including the City of Midland.

It sounded like the Commissioners had a misunderstanding on the 2020 flooding. The City of Midland had major flooding along with flooding in Sanford and in Gladwin County.

That's why it's so important that Midland County remain in its entirety. And Gladwin County needs to remain in the same District to ensure continuity and a united effort in our recovery.

Thank you very much. And thanks again for coming to this. This logic also applies to the Senate map.

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

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That concludes our in person public commentary so we will move to remote public comment.

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. Or the last four digits of your phone number.

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 and we will help you troubleshoot so you can participate during the next public comment period at a later hearing or meeting.

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

First in line to provide public comment is Anthony Skinnell.

>> Good afternoon, Commission.

Thank you for your time.

Thank you for all your hard work.

I think you know this exercise in fairness could be the perfect antidote to that annual corporate low fare tax scam capture that is going up on Mackinac right now.

So my next comment is about the public meeting notices.

I think there is still, you know, discrepancy in my opinion as to the signing up for public comment when you do the survey form.

Well, the notices don't say that in-person commenters must even fill out that survey.

But then when you click it, it says in person or Zoom. So I just think it should...the language should be cleaned up in the meeting notice that both in person and remote are to use that survey link if that is the case.

Okay, then my next comments on to the maps, specifically Congressional.

And to me it really comes down to the question of starting with how many ways are you going to split, you know, Detroit or Metro Detroit in the Congressional. And if

Mr. Adelson or whomever said the other day 35% of minority represented population, if that constitutes, you know, a VRA/candidate of choice, you know, ability, then I drew a Congressional map and was able to get three VRA districts out of Detroit and east and northwest in the southwest, that all include their nearby suburbs.

But that is if 35% counts.

I was able to get three.

And so then my next comment is in all these people saying keep my community whole, da, da one County getting kept whole means another one is going to get split.

So, yeah, I think they need to be compact. But I don't think the number of size of a District is relevant.

And, yeah that, is about it. Thanks.

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

We will now move on to Michael V.

>> On this Commission.

>> Good afternoon. Can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Thank you all for your time.

All the proposed Congressional District mapping changes break up Ottawa County into three separate parts.

That said, it seems to me that none of the proposed changes can meet the Commission's own standards, which are neither the community of interest standard nor the compactness standard.

It's critical to know that Ottawa is the fastest growing County in the state so why tinker with success.

Dividing Ottawa will only serve to dilute the voice of family farms, small businesses and the proud Dutch and Hispanic families that call the lakeshore their home.

As an example of not meeting the standards set forth, one of the proposed changes has Ottawa County citizens voting with those all the way up to Mackinac.

Can someone please explain how this would meet the community of interest standard or the compactness standard? Georgetown Township shares a cultural, historical, and economic tie to Ottawa County.

These are farming families and they associate with Ottawa far more than Grand Rapids. The citizens of Hudsonville and Jamestown purposefully chose to live in those communities because they value the opportunity provided in Ottawa County. Not because they are Grand Rapids commuters.

And, finally, Holland and Kalamazoo are not the same community of interest and never have been.

As an anecdote, and this might seem a little strange but it's applicable, none of the public or private schools in Ottawa share the same athletic conference with those schools in Grand Rapids or Kalamazoo areas.

And why is that? It's because our histories are separate.

Our communities are separate.

And I'm asking you to keep our Congressional voice districts separate from theirs.

Keep our voice together in Ottawa.

In looking at the comments in the meetings, it's yet to be clearly communicated the logic or rationale for breaking up Ottawa County.

Thank you for your time.

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

We will now move on to Michael.

>> Good afternoon.

My name is Michael Colucci. I'm a resident of Saginaw Township and Tri-Cities and Great Lakes Bay region of Michigan.

I was a supporter of proposal two and a volunteer for Voters Not Politicians.

I'd like to start by thanking the Commission members for your efforts to hold to the principles of proposal two, especially keeping communities of interest together. In particular, I would like to thank you for putting Midland, Saginaw and Bay City together in the draft State Senate districts.

Nearly a 40 year resident of the Tri-Cities, most of those years I lived in Saginaw Township and worked in either Midland or Bay City.

For many years this region works together better when we work together.

MBS airport, water supply, Delta College, Saginaw Bay State University are all regionals assets that resulted from working together as a region.

Regional cooperation goes beyond institutions to community activities.

I'm a board member of the Tri-City cyclists that serves bicyclists in Saginaw, Bay City and Midland.

The Great Lakes Bay regional trail connects all three cities with bicycling trails.

As a volunteer for first robotics, all the teams in those three cities work together to support each other.

Having a state Senator serving the Tri-Cities is another way to build regional cooperation and provide a strong voice in Lansing for the Tri-Cities.

Keeping the Tri-Cities together also applies to Michigan's Congressional District.

I happened to live essentially on the border between Representative Moolenaar and Representative Kildee current Districts.

As a local school board member, having this border run right through our community makes it difficult for us to adequately tell our story to our Congressional representatives. From my perspective, as others you heard from today, linking the Tri-Cities and Flint together in a Congressional district makes sense because of shared industrial heritage and the connecting media markets.

Again, I greatly appreciate the complexity of your work.

And thank you for your efforts to create fair districts for Michigan.

Thank you.

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

Next, we will move on to Mr. James Gallant.

>> Mr. Gallant, if you can unmute yourself, you are free to address the Commission.

>> Seems Mr. Gallant is experiencing technical difficulties and we will move on to the next participant we can return to him.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We have Sam.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Participants eight and nine are not present.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, let's go on to Reem.

>> Hello. Are you hearing me now?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can hear you. You are a little quiet.

>> Sorry, I just got this Zoom on my phone because my zone didn't call in.

This is James Gallant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition, and these are my opinions.

And we saw very clearly yesterday your...the parliamentary quagmire that evolved there in the middle of the meeting. And breezed right through it, like the coalition that you are. And it's as if you are attempting to implement a secret society. In Robert's Rules of Order, they call it a secret society, rules within rules.

So you have, I'd ask you to publish for the record and for your transparency your rules. You know, the rules that you didn't vote on.

I mean, Commissioner Lange said you voted on them. But I think it's just her perception that what she did constitutes a vote and is binding.

But not that you actually voted because it's not in the minutes.

That's what I'm trying to say.

If you could publish all those side bar rules. Because yesterday we saw that the Chair yielded to everybody.

And you were kind of like on an alternate plane, like you didn't even understand.

So it's very important how this all this stuff works and how we can and we do get...have the Senate is looking into the issue about their fiscal agency report.

And how that it contradicts the house report about this being a revived reiteration of the Constitutional Commission on legislative apportionment.

Because, remember, Mr. Brady told you at the first meeting you must use Robert's Rules of Order.

And then, you know, Secretary Benson just started not doing it right away. And then Commissioner Lett just started doing right away. And nobody started at all using it.

And it's interesting how a couple of your special rules of procedure are the exact same ones as were in that other, for the Commission on legislative apportionment. The Chair gets to designate a designee if they leave and a couple of the other ones.

They are the exact same ones that are in those rules as if...

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you for addressing the Commission, Mr. Gallant. We are going to now move on to Reem.

>> Hello. Can you hear me.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

I'm sorry, Mrs. Reem.

>> No worries. So my name is Reem. I'm a resident of Detroit, near the border of Hamtramck and District Four.

I was made aware of the Commission's efforts to redraw maps.

And something that I notice was that the Congressional maps that were drafted don't reflect the community interests in Hamtramck.

They split the District...they split the community into three districts.

And I don't see that as being efficient.

I think it's going to be a problem in the future when this community ultimately has specific needs. And in order to fulfill those needs they have to go through three different representatives or three different districts, which each have their own systems and means of getting things done.

For example, I went to school in the Detroit Hamtramck area.

And so if me and my friends who all live in the same neighborhood have an issue with the education that we're provided or it's going to be hard for all three of us to have to contact three different District offices to inform our representatives of our needs and issues in our District or specifically in our community of Detroit Hamtramck.

I would ask that the Commission considers keeping these communities together.

And that they look at the proposal that was submitted by APIA.

And vote under the submission number of 1037 because I feel that it reflects the community of interest the most.

And I appreciate...I would appreciate if those maps were taken into consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a public.

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

We are now on to Claudia Warren.

>> Hello. And thank you to all of you on this committee.

I fully support this Redistricting Commission.

And from what I've observed you're working steadily to create more fair and diverse legislative districts.

And I thank you for your time and your efforts.

Today I would like to speak to the issue of partisan fairness.

I'm a retired public school teacher.

I worked in special education for over 25 years.

And I've witnessed the transformative power of good teaching in the schools where I worked.

So much social and economic good comes from quality public education.

Over the past 20 years public education has been under assault particularly by the republican party and funded by very wealthy, antipublic education donors.

And in response to that, I began doing volunteer work for people running for the State House and the State Senate and for Congress.

But here in Mid-Michigan, the current District boundaries are so gerrymandered in favor of republicans that no matter how intelligent, qualified and capable any other candidate might be, we always end up with a republican legislature.

And they all walk, talk and vote the republican party line.

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And are unresponsive to other ideas.

And so that's why I see districts that are drawn unfavorably or that favor one party over another is very undemocratic.

We really desperately need more fair legislative districts.

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

Cathleen.

>> Hello.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, go ahead.

>> Hi, yes. I'm Cathleen and I resided in Midland for 45 years or so.

Excuse me. I'll start my video.

I didn't know it was off.

Okay, yeah, I'm commenting today to thank the Commission for the work that you're doing.

I don't envy you one bit.

And also to thank you for the State Senate District one map that you've done that includes the Tri-Cities of Midland, Bay City, Saginaw and Flint and to ask that our Congressional District also include the Tri-Cities and Flint.

Excuse me.

We are a community of interest.

We are Mid-Michigan.

All you have to do is look at a map of Michigan and look at our area of the state.

And you can see that we share this part of the I-75 corridor.

We are the Great Lakes Bay region.

And even our local news outlets, the cities that they cover are we have like three local news channels. And they cover Midland, Saginaw, Bay City and Flint.

That's all in addition to the other points that people have brought up about our shared interests as a community of interest with our corporate employers, our airports, our colleges, our school activities.

I graduated from Delta College.

My husband graduated from Saginaw Valley.

I know people who have graduated from U of M Flint.

And I just want to say that I thank you again for this intensive transparent work that you're doing.

Just the fact that this is an Independent Commission that is doing this work out in the open, you know, I was a volunteer for VMP and proposal two also. And we are taking it out of the back rooms where nobody knew what was going on because their districts were being drawn by the legislature.

So I'm --

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

Devhavon Hall.

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>> Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Hello Commissioners. My name is Devhavon Hall and I'm a proud resident of Hamtramck. I'm also the secretary of the Hamtramck school board. I'm here on behalf of my community expecting my students coming from diverse, unique cultural backgrounds. However, I want to know most of our students are of Bengali and Yemeni backgrounds. We want to make to make sure that these students and their families are kept together. And I can't imagine having students of the background, living in the same community, coming to the same class, but yet residing in three different House Districts.

Ultimately their needs are the same.

There have been maps submitted that show how to keep our communities together. Please do consider those maps in order to keep the immigrant communities in Hamtramck and Detroit together. Thank you.

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

Monica Day.

>> Hello. I spoke with you in May when you came to Jackson.

And my comments today are intended to highlight some of the character of Jackson that has been lost in the communities of interest clusters report for Michigan.

There are three clusters where Jackson is featured.

But none of them well they kind of obscure Jackson.

So it's kind of lost.

It's instead Hillsdale is connected, rural Calhoun, Jackson, and what's missing is that we are an urban suburban and ex-urban community.

And while we may draw people from the southern counties for shopping and for work, many of us that are here in the City actually travel to Washtenaw County and to Ann Arbor for jobs and for shopping.

And so the -- there is nearly half the comments are about the connections between Jackson and Washtenaw County.

But that's not reflected in any of the clusters.

The other thing is that we have four seats that you are drawing districts for.

And currently all four are really impossible for democrats to win.

As they currently are.

And while we have about 40% democratic voters, you know, all four of those seats, we really have no representation at this time.

So your draft maps, the Congressional one really favors the existing Congressperson.

And is totally uncompetitive for us as democrats.

And then the State Senate the way it's drawn is better than what we have.

But it's still out --

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

Sam?

>> Can you hear me?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Okay, okay. My name is Sam.

I'm a chairman of the Yemeni committee in Hamtramck in Detroit.

I'm proud to be a resident in Hamtramck and also too in Detroit.

The community has been paying close attention to this meeting and how maps have been developed.

We noticed that the current Congressional maps that have been drafted earlier this week do not reflect in the natural our Muslim community in Hamtramck and Detroit.

The draft map have split the community into three districts.

Particularly does not make sense when it's making our community be the same.

Regardless of a District that individual community members fall into.

I'm arguing the Commissioners to listen to the feedback that many of us have been and keeping our community together.

We need representations. And, as you know, the community is Yemeni community and Bangladesh community and Muslim community Hamtramck and Detroit and vote them together.

We have hard time to get the community to vote and to take them out especially to educate them for many years.

Now when we started to know the responsibility and how important the vote, it's going to be so difficult when you try to separate them.

When you separate them, it means most of the community are not going to vote any more.

And that is no voices will be heard.

So please take this under consideration and try to keep our community Muslim community together the way it used to be.

Thank you.

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

Amidora.

>> Hello.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes. I can hear you.

>> Hello, good afternoon. My name is Amidora. I'm a lifelong resident of Jackson County.

I want to thank you all for your efforts in the redistricting process.

I would like to speak about the proposed draft State Senate 29 regarding communities of interest.

Excuse me.

Specifically the current draft proposal of State Senate 29 includes part of Calhoun County as almost half of Hillsdale County. But those portions of Calhoun and Hillsdale

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Counties consist of rural, agricultural communities with interests such as farming regulation and property use guidelines.

Jackson County is a more urban community with interests such as municipal public services of sewer and water as well as housing interests.

Adopting this District as proposed would limit the level of representation in those segments of Calhoun and Hillsdale Counties as well as all of Jackson County by putting communities of citizens with vastly different interests in the same District.

Jackson County citizens are working and playing more in Washtenaw County, Ann Arbor area than in Hillsdale or Counties.

Jackson and Washtenaw Counties share recreation areas of the rails to trails bike path as well as the connected Waterloo and Pickney state recreation areas. Nearly 11% of Jackson County residents work in western Washtenaw or Ann Arbor. Adopting the District as proposed would limit the application of communities of interest by not including Jackson County residents with communities they share both in employment and recreational opportunities.

Based on the intent of the redistricting process to prioritize communities of interest when considering redistricting, I'm strongly urging this Commission to remove Calhoun and Hillsdale Counties from State Senate District 29. And add western Washtenaw and a portion of Ann Arbor to Jackson County to this District to be more consistent with these communities of interest.

Thank you very much for your time. And I appreciate everything you're doing. Have a wonderful afternoon.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Madam Chair, I believe you are muted.

No. We still can't hear you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Did that work?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Much better. Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay, I don't know why it does that sometimes but whatever.

Now, that the opportunity for in person and remote public commentary has concluded, without objection we will hear from individuals seeking to provide a second two-minute public comment.

Hearing no objection, we will now proceed with individuals seeking to provide a second public two-minute comment.

Individuals who signed up and indicated they would like to provide live, remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so. And we will do the same process as the first round with two minutes to comment.

First in line to provide second public comment is Anthony.

>> Thank you for the second opportunity, Commission.

Yeah, I'd just like to reiterate every County kept whole potentially means another one gets split. So, you know, everyone wants what they want, but everyone can't get what they want.

And another reiteration for Congressional maps, if 35% constitutes, you know, a choice minority District, then I was able to get three Congressional VRAs out of Metro Detroit.

I think you should take a look at that.

And, yeah, please also fix your public meeting notices, if you need to sign up on the link and the language in that. Thank you.

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

Next in line is Mr. James Gallant.

>> Can you hear me now?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> Okay. James Gallant, Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition and these are my opinions.

And, you know, you've heard a few times about, you know, the Roberts rules of procedure and how they work and how Secretary Benson did not follow Roberts rules when she presided over the meetings. She presided over the meetings and immediately gave public comment to her friend and political ally Dr. Nancy Wang. And where is Dr. Nancy Wang on all rules and before this reiteration part? And these this house fiscal agency report? Where is Voters Not Politicians on all this? Notice they are not making any comments on any of this.

They want to just make it up on the fly, I think.

So seek the opinion of your attorneys concerning the house and the Senate fiscal agency reports concerning this amendment and the...because the rules of procedure are very important. You have got these Bengali people and this other guy coming up, and mixing it altogether.

If you were following the rules, somebody is going to get screwed.

And because you're not following the rules, it's going to be hey well who and why.

Well, because there is no order.

You have no order here at all.

And in the Roberts rules it talks about where there is no law, there is the least amount of liberty.

So when you are actually drawing the maps and you are assigned the floor, you own the map. You own the rules. There is no law there. There is no order.

The Chair is not in control of the meeting.

This is District contradiction to the way we do it in America.

This is the pulled model. This is the pulled model from Dutch land over there. And Commissioner Witjes brought this up. It's all in the transcripts. If you just read the transcripts. And public transcripts, you are about six weeks behind on the transcripts. Not the minutes. The minutes don't talk about most of the decisions you make.

And that's the Open Meetings Act. All decisions are required to be in the minutes. And then deliberation has not started yet.

So you folks can see this in real time. Just remember if you are following the rules. That's why I'm advocating for everybody and trying to protect everyone here, equally. The rules, make a motion, second it, discussion and vote every time.

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

This concludes our public comment for this afternoon. However, I'd like to mention that all e-mail and mailed public comment is provided to the Commission before each meeting. And Commissioners also review the public comment portal on our www.Michigan.gov/MICRC website on a regular basis. We appreciate everyone who provides public comment in whatever way you choose and invite you to keep sharing your thoughts communities of interests and maps.

At this point we are going to return to our unfinished business agenda item which is continuing to draft the State House districts.

I believe the next Commissioner in line is Commissioner Eid. And, once again, I'm going to ask the Vice Chair, MC Rothhorn, to facilitate discussion since he is present in the room and I am not.

Please take it over, MC, and Commissioner Eid.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Chair Szetela.

Commissioner Eid you have the floor.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay, let's bring the map up.

>> MR. MORGAN: Just a minute and I will bring the map up.

Thank you.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Mr. Vice Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you General Counsel you have the floor.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: While Mr. Morgan is pulling up that map, I wanted to highlight again for the benefit of the Commission as well as the public the constitutional criteria regarding partisan fairness which reads districts shall not provide a disproportionate advantage to any political party.

A disproportionate advantage to a political party shall be determined using accepted measures of partisan fairness.

So partisan gerrymandering is when District lines are drawn intentionally to favor or disfavor a political party, a candidate, incumbent.

Measuring partisan fairness using acceptable standards of partisan fairness those are very distinct legal concepts and statistical concepts that are done on a statewide level. So you can't measure partisan fairness on a District by District level.

That would be going towards a criteria of focused on competitiveness which is not included in the Michigan Constitution.

So to have a competitiveness criteria being considered Michigan's Constitution would need to be amended again.

So what we do have in front of the Commission in the ranked criteria is again the partisan fairness.

So a map without substantial partisan bias would provide both parties similar opportunities to win elections.

And I know back in February and throughout the last series of months we've talked again and again about partisan fairness is measured on a statewide plan.

So you need all of the districts drawn either in the Senate, the house or the Congressional to be able to run those statistical analyses.

The ways of measuring the mean median distance difference excuse me lopsided margins proportional representation, declination, efficiency gap and would note your expert Dr. Lisa Handley her memo on the measures of partisan fairness is posted on the MICRC website.

It would be under the August 6th meeting materials tab.

And again the measures that Dr. Handley is proposing for the Commission and will hopefully be doing that work for the Commission.

I know that is later on the agenda, but she would look at the mean median, the efficiency gap and lopsided margins tests.

What partisan fairness does is it measures symmetry and responsiveness of a Districting plan. So whether votes to seats are so for a map to be symmetrical the voters success for both parties is translates into the same electoral success.

So if you win more votes, you should win more seats that would be symmetrical.

If it's a responsive map, when the electoral outcomes change, again, if you win more votes than your seat then your seats should also increase.

Again, competitiveness is not a criteria in Michigan.

I cannot state this more simply, more plainly.

We have as a criteria that the maps shall not provide a disproportionate advantage. Not any advantage, a little advantage, make it equal.

It's a disproportionate advantage and those measures, those fairness measures and those statistical tools that Dr. Handley will be using again will inform the Commission about how the maps that they are drawing score on those scales.

And I wanted to also highlight and I know I have in the past that we don't have competitiveness in our Constitution but Arizona does.

And I was hoping that Bruce could maybe say a few words in his experience working directly with Arizona on what that criteria looks like when -- to assist the Commission and the viewing public with that distinction between those two criteria.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Bruce would you like to add?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Yes, thank you first I'd like to restate my agreement with General Counsel and all of her points and I wanted to discuss very quickly the experience in Arizona.

General Counsel said that as you know in Arizona the Arizona Constitution specifically uses the words competitive districts.

That is something that the state Redistricting Commission can do after they take all the prior criteria into account one person one vote, Voting Rights Act for example.

But the term is in their Constitution.

It's not in the Michigan Constitution.

One of the other differences is Arizona voter registration is by party.

Whether it's unaffiliated republican or democrat or a third-party.

That you don't have that here.

So what we did ten years ago it would be relatively easy to Judge competitiveness by getting it that early metric through by doing each District to look at the partisan political registration.

It was extremely helpful to the Commission.

It was helpful in their deciding what adjustments to make.

But again they had the difference of competitive districts were in their Constitution.

So as a final point I wanted to just pivot back briefly to General Counsel Pastula's comments about disproportionate advantage.

Those are the terms in Michigan's Constitution.

And they're conditioned by the use of partisan fairness metrics as established by the courts which we have talked about before and Dr. Handley has included it in her report.

So disproportionate advantage as determined by these metrics.

And that is a difference with Arizona certainly.

And that conditions the first sentence in the sense that it explains how you determine disproportionate advantage.

So that is spelled out in mandatory terminology.

Excuse me.

I wanted to share the Arizona experience, I wanted to reiterate my agreement with my colleague and explain the distinction between competitive and the language in Michigan's Constitution disproportionate advantage as determined by these metrics, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Our education continues and thank you for helping us understand the difference and I thought it was competitive and proportionate advantage and thought they were similar and understand they are not and Commissioner Eid, it is your turn to map.

And I think Mr. Morgan you are ready?

>> MR. MORGAN: I'm ready.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: All right you have the floor Commissioner.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Eid let's go and look at Hamtramck real quick because I don't believe we split it up.

>> MR. MORGAN: To be clear this is the map that is as it was before and there were some other ideas that Commission Szetela looked at and the group looked at but this map reflects the original.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Eid I think you are absolutely right Hamtramck is not split up but I think it's Bangla Town and surrounding area that many of the comments today were referring to that surrounding area and I do believe you know so we do have between 8, 2 and 10 we have the community.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay so maybe something to look at would be changing this border between 2 and 10 like how we did yesterday to include that northern precinct, that is currently in 8 and the eastern precinct that is currently in 10. Do we want to do that now? Or should we focus on finishing the map and maybe come back to that? I do want to point out it's something we should look at.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Absolutely it's your turn and you have the priority.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Let's see where we are at right now. Hamtramck has what is the population.

>> MR. MORGAN: Entire municipality is about 28,000.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Can you Zoom up to the top of ten.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I might offer the Asian theme might be helpful too to see that.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm trying to focus on balancing population at the moment. Can we get the population numbers for the precincts and those top five precincts? Can you highlight all of that whole square starting from 4209?

>> MR. MORGAN: Do you want me to remove in.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I just want you to highlight it so we can get a population count for 4209, 4109 going up what is included in it currently.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay so again for whatever reason my computer does not do that selection.

So I'm going to have to put it into a separate District for a moment to give you the population and it will be the same information.

I'm just going to use District 100 for this for just a moment.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: 2100.

>> MR. MORGAN: 21,000.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Add one more precinct trying to get to 2800.

We are trying to get to about 2800 people because that's the amount of people that are in Hamtramck.

>> MR. MORGAN: 28,000.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: 28,000 yes thank you.

>> MR. MORGAN: Also I believe in the discussions previously there was some discussion that this area did have significant Asian population at the extreme northern end.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Can you turn on that theme?

>> MR. MORGAN: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: 16.51% it says it right there.

>> MR. MORGAN: That's right.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Can you highlight but it does not allow you to do that just highlight the City of Hamtramck to compare.

>> MR. MORGAN: Let me bring up the Thematic value and I can click on the thematic value.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Anthony it occurs we may have the COI map that may allow you to see exactly as an overlay if you want the Bangla Town that was submitted as a COI.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: You're talking the neighborhood map.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Neighborhoods so not just Hamtramck but the surrounding community that was submitted as a COI.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Now this is not going to work because we have to add population to two and that is going to change everything so this may take considerably more work to look at than what we can do now.

So how about we undo it.

We are going to look at it, just I think a better use of our meeting time would be to finish this map then we can continue taking a look at it later.

>> MR. MORGAN: For information you asked about Hamtramck as a whole. It's the 31, 32%.

You want me to undo what we did up north in 10.

That is the Asian population? Voting age and, yes.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: If we made a change that is where we take off the top of 10 and add in Hamtramck into District 10 it would actually increase the amount of Asian population and because you're looking at a difference of 16.3% to 31.64% then we would have to add more population to 2 which means going into more districts.

So it could probably work.

We just need to configure it a little bit more.

>> MR. MORGAN: Yes, and just to make sort of the geographic observation you basically have taken this population off and you would have to potentially circle it back around through there, yep.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: And that might take a little bit of redrawing to do. So we are going to keep it in mind.

I think we will work over the weekend to figure out a way to get it done.

So let's undo it and put that 100 back into 10.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay I think that is done.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Can you also add the data layer for what we have already completed so we don't accidentally go into there?

>> MR. MORGAN: We need clarity on what you mean area that are completed. There are several partial plans. Is there an area you're looking at?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I believe we had already done the Ann Arbor area which we wouldn't want to go into now because it borders the Metro Detroit area. And put that overlay on.

>> MR. MORGAN: So the Ann Arbor area, just a moment. Okay this is one of the configurations.

There may have been another one but I believe this is the most comprehensive one that was completed in the Lansing area.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: This is fine and looks like we don't have Novi assigned yet so let's do that.

>> MR. MORGAN: The entire Township as a starting point.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: What was that.

>> MR. MORGAN: Entire town of Novi.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Select Novi Wixom and Walled lake and see where that puts us.

Do you know what I'm going to change my position again because this looks like a pretty, I don't want to use the word basic but an easy one to do.

Let's move on to an area that may be a little more challenging for us as a Commission to do while we have our voting rights expert here.

So let's go into Pontiac which is north.

It's right there.

Right on the corner of 25.

Okay so this may present a little bit of a challenge because of the concentration of African/Americans is quite high.

And I believe that was in one of the areas that Dr. Handley had mentioned in her report. Correct?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: This is northern Oakland County and Oakland County was in her report.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: If you were just to highlight, let's look and figure it out if we were to add the Pontiac in a District where would that put us percentage wise?

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay I'm doing that and by percentage wise you mean what variables are you talking about?

>> COMMISSIONER EID:

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Orton I'm sorry John forgive me I didn't hear what your question is.

>> MR. MORGAN: My question is when you said referring to percentage wise what variable were you considering?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Referring to Black VAP.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Orton to you.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So Commissioner Eid, I was actually working on this earlier.

And looked at the City of Pontiac.

And it will need several precincts around it.

And I looked at the percentages of minority population that were in those voting age minority population.

And so I do have some suggestions of which you could include to get the highest or the best.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Best balance.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Of what we are going for.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm open to suggestions we have 46.69 right now which is not too high.

>> MR. MORGAN: The number is 46.69 and that is single race, non-Hispanic Black population.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm sorry to interrupt go ahead.

>> MR. MORGAN: Single race non-Hispanic African/American population voting age.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Minority voting age population would be around.

>> MR. MORGAN:

>> COMMISSIONER EID: 72%.

>> MR. MORGAN: The inverse of that.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Excuse me keep in mind we don't have data on cohesiveness among Black population Asian population, Hispanic population.

That is just an FYI.

We don't have any data analysis on that.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay Commissioner Orton what are some of your suggestions?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Before I do this, the balance that I was able to come up with was voting age population 40.16% white.

35.28% voting age population Black.

Is that within the range of what we would be looking for?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Commissioner Orton I wanted to check Dr. Handley's report about Oakland County.

And I think with Oakland County I think that we, yeah, one of the candidates of choice lost actually at 35%.

So I would say and that was one of the bellwether elections I think 40% is probably a better starting place.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So using all of the precincts around and comparing them that was the highest I was able to get.

It was 35.28%.

But I can share that but I couldn't get it higher.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Let put up the theme.

>> MR. MORGAN: I will put up the them and also was that the measure of non-Hispanic Black voting age population which is less inclusive than some other measurements?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I'll check.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: For clarity between you and Cynthia, I will just let you have it.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So for clarification Mr. Morgan, I had pop, oh, wait. So for clarification Anthony, the numbers that I gave are what is on the active matrix but the theme I was using to choose which were the best precincts was actually BL so pop BL underscore A.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay in this case I'm currently showing the VA PBL underscore C which is the combined which would be a little more inclusive than the A measurement.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So that might give you a little different result.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So we are at 46% now.

We are trying to get a little lower to about 40%.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Commissioner Eid I think with following Dr. Handley's analysis 40% is the area that I would look at.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I'll just offer if there are any communities of interest we can use when we are doing it it's helpful.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Well, you know when we were at the Pontiac public hearing, they expressed wanting you know to be together as much as possible you know.

They expressed displeasure of being on the Congressional side being lumped in with Detroit in the past and the current 14th Congressional District.

And there was an overwhelming message to keep it together as much as possible because it's a City that is growing, a City that is trying to reestablish itself.

Especially in the confine.

And we said it's an island in Oakland County I think they would like to shed that perception.

But there are places we could go.

Waterford has a ton of similarities with Pontiac.

I mean it leads into Pontiac through M59 and there also Auburn Hills and Auburn Heights we could go into as well and might be able to bring that population down slightly.

So I would say maybe take off some of the precincts on either side and then add precincts either to Waterford or Auburn Hills.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Orton then Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So from my experience, you can keep the entire City of Pontiac together and it will still be difficult to keep that number high enough with what you have to add on the outside.

But I don't think there is a need to break any off.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We are still under population I didn't notice that.

>> MR. MORGAN: At this point and Commissioner Orton's point when you add additional population you are probably looking to not reduce that number but increase the number.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Let's go north then.

That makes it way easier.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Clark did you have a comment?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: The comment is if you took Auburn Hills or Auburn Heights you are locking in the Bloomfield Hills area so I avoid that and go west if I had to or north.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Eid the floor is yours.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So I'm looking at Commissioner Orton and has Pontiac with Auburn Hills and the precincts on top to the north of where Pontiac is at. Commissioner Clark how would you feel about Auburn Hills being included with this District?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I mean I see both Waterford and Auburn Hills associated more with Pontiac than anything.

I'm just afraid of locking in Bloomfield Hills it's only 4460 if you choose the Auburn route. Waterford would be good but you would end up splitting Waterford.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Let's see how this would work.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: May I suggest you draw two districts in tandem because you have Bloomfield Hills because it's helpful to see one or the other or have a VRA District or two.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We could try that.

You are saying in between where we have District 22 and this District 23 lock in a placeholder District for now.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Correct because I think to Commissioner Clark's point it's important to understand how that District will look.

And that will be our District currently will influence that heavily.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: That sounds like a good idea to me.

So let's make a placeholder District 24 for now or whatever number we want to use, 30. And to that direction let's add in the rest of that area north of District 22 that includes Bloomfield Hills and the rest of Bloomfield Township.

>> MR. MORGAN: This will be the portion of Bloomfield Hills and remaining part of Bloomfield Township.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: For that configuration we would still need about 70,000 more people.

Can you Zoom out a little bit.

A good thing we could probably do for that one is go into with the southern part of Auburn hill and even into Rochester Hills I think to makeup that population.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: I would hate to split Rochester Hills because you can take Rochester Hills and Rochester and have a District by itself.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Chair Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I'm just curious why you wouldn't combine 29 and 30, what is the thought there? Since they are bordering each other and otherwise you are going to have some kind of odd looking districts.

Like what is the hesitancy to combine them?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I don't have a hesitancy to do that.

Let's try that and see where it gets us if it gets us close to 40% number.

>> MR. MORGAN: So simplify since Pontiac is a whole Township, I'm going to fold that into the District 30.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I was going to say merge 29 and 30 together.

>> MR. MORGAN: Yep.

So that is 88,000 people.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So it's a little low on the demographic side for what we need.

But what if we take off the, hum.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Orton may have an answer for you.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: In case this has any bearing, so this is 34.21% non-Hispanic Black.

When I did it using each precinct around that was as high as possible, I only had 35%. So it isn't a lot different.

>> MR. MORGAN: Did you want to look at the other election information in conjunction with this?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, let's pull it up to see if this configuration could work even though the percentage number is lower and even though these are just, yeah, let's pull it up.

>> MR. MORGAN: So on the election data it's 70% for Biden, sorry 30% for Trump. 69 for Clinton.

And 31 for Trump.

It's 68 Obama, 32 Romney in the U.S. Senate. 68 Peters and 32 for James.

Stabenow is 68.

And James is 32 in 2018.

In 2014, 68 for Peters and 32 for land.

Stabenow is 71.

Hoekstra is 29.

And then for Governor Whitmer is 69.

Schuette is 31.

Shower is 57.

Snyder is 43.

For Attorney General Nessel is 68.

And Leonard is 32.

Totten is 59.5.

And Schuette is 40.5.

Secretary of State Benson is 70 and Lange is 30.

Dillard is 55.5.

And 45.5 for Johnson for Secretary of State.

And then the Governor primary race El-Sayed is 29%, 26 for Thanedar and 44 for Whitmer.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I know Commissioner Witjes has a comment.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Wondering if we could change the color of 30.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you and were you looking to have Bruce like help with that?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yeah, it looks pretty strong to me but I think we should be cautioned too this may be another scenario where the primary election results for the House District may tell a different story but as far as the general what do you think?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Let's look at the primary, John can you put back the 2018 gubernatorial primary, please?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I was speaking of the house primary.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: There is something in there I wanted to point out that I think is very informative.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We have hues of blues.

>> MR. MORGAN: Testing visual acuity.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: With lots of blues and hues.

>> MR. MORGAN: MC, Seuss.

Okay there we go.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Back to election results, John.

Bruce, you have the floor.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Yes gubernatorial.

I wanted to point out a couple interesting things so Whitmer won and I think that as Dr. Handley has analyzed Whitmer's winning in this primary does show racially polarized voting in the democratic primary to your point.

Commissioner Eid about I completely agree primaries can be as this is very revelatory in information it provides and also interesting that El-Sayed came in second.

We are not always necessarily seeing that.

I'm not saying that what inferences are drawn from that.

But I do think there was two points are important.

That one of the elements that I look for in this election result is the degree of polarized voting.

And Whitmer prevailing over two minority candidates.

And I think that El-Sayed's winning as I said I'm not suggesting that it has a specific meaning.

I think that that's just also interesting to note that this primary election does provide some general information across the districts we have been looking at.

Not only for RPV in the primary but the success or nonsuccess of El-Sayed and the democratic primary.

So putting that as side I agree with you all the election results look pretty good even bellwether election results look good.

My only advisory is that this is below what Dr. Handley analyzed and recommended.

So I think that this is a more appropriate configuration than what we were talking about before.

I think the District has been reconfigured in a way that the ability to elect the minority voters has not been based on the election results weakened or impaired.

So my only advisory is that this is 5% below what Dr. Handley recommended.

For the time being I'm not suggesting that that's dispositive.

That is something I'm sure we will revisit.

But that's my one caution in seeing these election results for this current District.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm glad it works for now at least.

I do question this how much Bloomfield Hills and the rest of Bloomfield have in common can Pontiac and Pontiac with Waterford or Auburn Hills but probably for now leave this as is and hear what people have to say about it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Mr. Morgan.

>> MR. MORGAN: Since we are switching back from the election field, this is the population of the District as drawn thank you Commissioner Eid.

Any comments? We got a thumbs up from the Secretary of State.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: If I may quickly Mr. Chair.

The point about the communities of interest and I know there has been discussion about communities of interest and adjoining communities that share a commonality with Pontiac I agree I think it's a very important consideration and that going forward as this is discussed, I certainly recommend looking at like communities as having a commonality with Pontiac according to public comments, your own understanding and the submissions.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.

All right I believe we are moving on to Commissioner Lange.

Commissioner Lange, can you hear us? Okay she is not here.

Sorry I apologize.

We are moving on to Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Zoom out, please.

I want to -- I want to go down to the Westland area, which is immediately west of 14, 15, 7 right in that area.

Is there any reason we shouldn't be looking at Inkster garden City Westland and Wayne or some configuration of those? From the Detroit contingent?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Chair Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: You're going to have too much population would be my first part.

But Garden City Inkster, Wayne and I would probably grab part of Romulus to balance your population and then because Westland is so big you can grab a little bit of Canton to put in Westland that would make more sense.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: My question was is there a reason I should not go in there and the answer is no.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: No, it's just too much population for them all.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Oh, I understand that thank you.

Inkster and garden City.

Go over to square off with blocks to the west of Inkster.

>> MR. MORGAN: Do you want towards Wayne?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MR. MORGAN: Those are the voting precincts west of Inkster but north of Wayne.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yeah, give me the one south of Inkster.

>> MR. MORGAN: Now you are up to the Wayne line.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Give me well let's take Wayne.

Take all of it and see what happens.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay so with all of Wayne it's a little bit over. So at this point you have Garden City in total, Inkster, Wayne in total, and a portion of Westland.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I would personally look at taking off those three precincts east side of Westland actually and see what that I do.

I hope we only need the top two.

>> MR. MORGAN: The top two is about exactly the amount.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yeah.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Before you took those last two off Steve you were at 95,000 people or whatever.

And previous two distributes were drawn and would have been under 3,000 so they kind of offset each other.

So maybe we can look.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: 113 difference now.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: Now.

>> MR. MORGAN: The previous two districts in another part of the state or adjacent to these?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I don't know if the last two you took broke up garden City.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: No.

COMMISSIONER CLARK: It doesn't okay that is what I was trying to avoid breaking up one of the cities there thanks.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I want to know how many in the north of garden City in other words the area that is, yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: That's not garden City.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I understand that, I just want to know what is up there because it will be odd if we don't do something with it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: It is west land.

Just to be clear.

That is not garden City.

You have not broken up garden City.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Thank you.

I understand that, Rebecca.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT:

>> MR. MORGAN: It's about 15,000.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: And back down to Wayne was what?

>> MR. MORGAN: 17.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Let's take Wayne off and put that in.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Your population for non-Hispanic Black reduced significantly.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Put the thematic on.

>> MR. MORGAN: Thematic on for what.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: African/American.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Thank you.

>> MR. MORGAN: Looking at the Townships Inkster in the District is 75.8% African/American.

Romulus and the other District is 47.

Wayne as a whole is 24.

All of Westland sorry it just disappeared so there.

All of Westland including you know the entire Township is 22%.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Zoom out a little please so I can see all.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Bruce Adelson do you have a comment?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Thank you Mr. Chair.

There is one consideration as well that in creating districts, making changes, adding precincts and subtracting them, one consideration to be aware of if you are, and I know and agree with your comment before that the Black population decreased as presents were being adjusted.

But one very important consideration is that if you are able to create a District of a certain demographic that can protect the ability to elect for example and you choose not to do that, then that would inform some significant justifications.

So just keep that in mind that sometimes when you're adding or subtracting, I have noticed not today necessarily that of course the populations can change dramatically. But if they change in a certain way then that may require as I said some significant justifications if you are choosing not to go in a certain direction.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Zoom out just a little further.

Thank you.

My other thought is to come over, drop down south from the top where I went north of garden City.

Drop down further and come down and pick up Westland and Wayne.

Now that is going to split up Garden City.

But it's not going to leave just a little strip at the top.

Let's try that, John.

You understand where I'm going with it?

>> MR. MORGAN: Let's repeat it, please.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Okay, I want to come down to where the Westland 85, 420.

The yellow line.

And I want to remove everything from there up and then come from Inkster over to the blue line.

>> MR. MORGAN: You want to take out all of Garden City? A portion of Garden City? You want to take out this portion.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I want that portion I want Garden City down to what your number 29 was basically.

Blue line.

>> MR. MORGAN: First step I will take this portion of Westland out.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MR. MORGAN: This is the boundary of Garden City.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MR. MORGAN: All of that out?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MR. MORGAN:

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Go and put in all of Wayne.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay that is 64,000.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Okay start going north of Wayne.

Picking up the precincts.

>> MR. MORGAN: 79,000, 12000 under.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Okay pick up the Westland, the right there, that one, those two actually that you just did.

>> MR. MORGAN: That was just the two precincts?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

Take that one you are on, the one that comes down with that indentation, yes.

Zoom out a little, please.

Take the precincts immediately north of 29 like the lower row.

No, not that high.

Yes.

>> MR. MORGAN: This portion of garden City, do you want this one first?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MR. MORGAN: Did you want that one to the north?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Sure.

>> MR. MORGAN: That will take 500 off the ideal.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Any comments, Commissioners?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I like what you did and you are around 35%.

A little less.

34.5% non-Hispanic Black but it helps Inkster primarily 74 I think we saw Black community I think it's reasonable but it's still a little bit low.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Bruce?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Yes, sir.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Hi.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Hi.

Do you want to look at election data.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes, I do and I looked what happened in Dr. Handley's report.

And they elected a candidate of choice with 35 -- 36.81% VA P.

And a percentage of the vote of 72.9.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Well, yes, to your point, Commissioner Lett.

The Wayne County, the percentage of the vote where a Black candidate would win at 35% VA P.

Yes.

Wayne County performs in that respect at that rate in comparison with Genesee County for example the Genesee Oakland I'm sorry did not.

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So I think to your point, yes, according to Dr. Handley's analysis that in Wayne County, Wayne County can elect candidates of choice at 35% VAP.

As I said previously, you know, I always prefer a little leeway to that since these are estimates.

But this is a District that is almost right at the point of Dr. Handley's analysis.

I should also you know, again add that although of course this District is about 50% minority we don't have that data on cohesion among various minority groups.

I think one of the things we have seen in some of the districts today in Wayne County that that may explain certain election results and suggest that there is some level of cohesion.

We just don't have the analysis or the data to back that up.

Because we don't necessarily see that in other parts of the state.

So based on this configuration I agree that this does meet Dr. Handley's floor of 35%.

And as I've said you know I always prefer a bit of leeway.

But this is certainly in above where the District had been before.

Now it's at her threshold while before it was below.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Let's look take a look at the voting figures.

>> MR. MORGAN: This District here 29 which is Inkster Wayne and a portion of Westland in 2020 Presidential Biden is 68.

Trump 32.

Clinton 67.

Trump 33.

Obama is 75.

Romney 25.

U.S. Senate Peters 69.

James is 31.

Stabenow is 70.

James is 30 in 2018.

2014, 77 for Peters.

23 for land.

In 2012 Stabenow is 80 and Hoekstra is 20.

Governor Whitmer 72, Schuette is 28.

2014 is showers 69, Snyder 31.

Attorney General Nessel 71.

Leonard is 29.

Then 68 for Totten and 32 for Schuette.

Secretary of State Benson 73, Lange 27, Dillard 66, Johnson 34.

For the democratic primary for Governor 2018, El-Sayed is 25.

Thanedar is 27 and then Whitmer is 48.

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>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well, I'm pretty happy with that especially since we have our infamous Secretary of State going the way Bruce always wants it to go.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Somehow Commissioner Lett I knew.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I've been waiting all day.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I have too.

This District based on election results including the bellwether Secretary of State race, does perform and does appear to provide candidates of...minority candidates of choice with ability to elect.

It seems that way across the board the percentages can be two or three times the victory margin.

So I agree.

I think that that would be my thought.

And I think you know again I wanted to reiterate because I think it's really important what Commissioner Eid said previously.

Primary election results we don't have here other than 2018 gubernatorial are also important in the 2018 gubernatorial does show that racially polarized voting, that Dr. Handley analyzed and concluded about.

But going back I agree that the elections do add up and including our favorite one that they all show candidates of choice prevail.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I am satisfied with this unless other Commissioners have other comments.

But the District is relatively compact.

From where I started.

And in keeping and in consideration obviously the population where we are within 415. And it includes not only African/Americans but Asians and Hispanics so there is a broad range of demographics included.

I think it meets all of our requirements and stick a fork in it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Commissioner Lett I believe we have two comments.

First Commissioner Witjes and then Commissioner Orton.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: John, could I see the total population deviation in the spreadsheet form from the totals?

>> MR. MORGAN: Sure.

I'll try to get that for you.

But I'd also point out the districts in different areas so they are not you know they are not interacting against each other in some areas.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: It looks like Commissioner Orton may have something.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Before we move to something else, I have a question for Mr. Adelson I believe.

Regarding what he was talking about with Commissioner Lett.

Is that okay? Then we can move to that.

So Mr. Adelson so you acknowledge we don't have St. Information needed to analyze I think you called it minority group cohesion.

Will we at some -- is that information we will have? Or we will just not be able to analyze that?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Well that is a very important part of the overall analysis. Of course I don't have -- I unfortunately can't inform you about whether you have it, when you are getting it.

I certainly do agree with you.

That it is important to have primary results and let me just if I could just talk a little bit about why.

As Commissioner Eid was saying earlier, often in areas where there is a propensity to elect minority candidates of choice, the elections are often decided in the primary. Rather than the general.

So having primary results to not compare with but to supplement general results is really important.

In my experience it's certainly something I've always been able to look at.

We had a lot of primary results in Arizona for example.

So I think that it is important to have.

But what I really appreciate your question is I think that point that Commissioner Eid was talking about earlier to see how they supplement general election results so the Commission has as much information as possible to make these determinations.

Does that answer your question?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: It answers part of my question.

So can anyone answer the other part of the question will we get that information? In order to be able to use it in our analysis at some point and when?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Orton will you name the information? Is it the primary election results is that what you're asking for?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Can Mr. Adelson guide?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Democratic primary election results similar to what we have now and we got this week for the 2018 democratic gubernatorial primary.

So it's democratic primary results.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: And that would help us identify if there is minority group cohesion?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Well, just as it showed in a couple of districts in Detroit earlier in the week.

It did give us our first bit of data on the Arab American community.

And while it may provide information about minority group cohesion, it also will show different supplementary results than show in a general election.

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While for example, let's say for in the 2018 race for Secretary of State if the minority candidate of choice in the general election who is white prevailed two, three, four times that is very important.

But let's presume that, that candidate did not prevail in certain communities where there are larger minority populations, that may indicate racially polarized voting.

It may show that percentages there need to be adjusted.

While you're right it may show cohesion and are discussing later in the agenda but information about group cohesion is important.

Having democratic primary election data is also important.

Best practice, I've done that in my career.

And my experience working with statewide Commissions and local Commissions.

It is very important.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thanks for that I want to not summarize but acknowledge we do have two things working at the moment Mr. Commissioner Witjes requested aggregate data and we will get to that right after we try to acknowledge Commissioner Orton's request.

Is there anyone else in the room who can speak to it? What is it the 2018 democratic.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Mr. Chair, it's the we have the 2018 gubernatorial primary election.

That is just one election.

There are a lot of other primary elections.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Can you help us identify what should we be asking for? Maybe is I think try to be as specific as possible.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: As a starting point we have general election results going back to 2012.

So with the exception of the 2018 Governor primary, I'm not aware of any other primary election results.

So that's one place to start.

If you have a general election result for 2012, then why not a primary election result for 2012.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Very good thank you.

Excellent.

I believe we are back to Commissioner Witjes' request.

>> MR. MORGAN: To that request of the districts it looks like there are about 30 districts that have been drawn so far.

And I put the deviation in of each District and put a color theme on negative versus positive.

But it's not being displayed.

Okay.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Mr. Morgan.

>> MR. MORGAN: I can shift that.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Can you screen share those so members of the public can see it as well? Thank you.

>> MR. MORGAN: Again to Commissioner Witjes' concern there is about 30 districts that have been drawn to this point in this partial plan.

And then it looks like about six of them are negative sorry let me get this right five of them are within outside 2% negative deviation.

So these five districts and then these districts are negative deviation at 2% to 0.

And then these five districts are within 2% on the positive side.

These three are two to 4% and this single District is 4% of it.

And then the total is if you add up all the deviations it's 10,000 under which is represents 11% of an ideal District.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: All right it is about 3:20.

If I'm not mistaken, we wanted to try at this point to I think to end mapping.

And move.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, we were.

We were going to end mapping at 3:20 and move on to new business item revise appendix C for Election Data Services contract.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: May I interrupt Secretary of State has her hand.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I wanted to ask one question to Commissioner Lett regarding District 29.

For the communities Westland Wayne and Inkster are there additional COIs that you or your fellow Commissioners considered when drawing this District? Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I do not have. Any other Commissioners have input please do so.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right so let's move on to Election Data Services.

So Julianne are you presenting this?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Yes, ma'am thank you so much Madam Chair.

So what the Commission has before I cued up earlier this week on Monday, I believe an appendix C that dealt with or offered proposed for the Commission's consideration expanding Dr. Handley's scope of services for her work to include two items.

First would be the partisan, the partisan fairness measures, again, to determine whether there is disproportionate advantage of so those partisan fairness measures as well as and this goes to what Commissioner Orton was just raising, the additional analysis so that to study voting patterns by race and ethnicity.

To determine whether there is any potential disenfranchisement of protected populations.

Again this gets towards those see the cohesiveness of voting.

And what is critical about that analysis that I wanted to highlight for the Commission in the event I did not do so on Monday.

Again Monday was just an...I wanted to raise it so that the Commission would be thinking about it.

But what the voting pattern data will do is it will support the MICRC's work whether it demonstrates cohesiveness or whether it does not demonstrate cohesiveness.

That data can be -- will be very useful to the Commission regardless of what the analysis shows.

That the benefit to the Commission in getting that voting pattern research and I know Mr. Adelson and we just had a conversation about some of the data that would be helpful.

Again, to move that analysis forward.

And I wasn't sure Suann Executive Director Hammersmith did you want to speak about the EDS piece or? I wasn't sure if you wanted me to keep going or if you wanted to.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Well you may certainly keep going.

On the EDS side, they have done a substantial amount of work in developing changing actually the software and the database so your latest version reflected the needs of this Commission.

So City Gate has certainly bent over backwards for this Commission to give you everything that they can to assure your success.

They also are in the process of needing faster cloud uploads for the data sets that they have produced.

And that is an additional expense that they are incurring.

So that's why this has been added to this appendix.

These are additional services being provided that were not in the original contract when it was granted to EDS.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: No other hands in the room Chair Szetela.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I will jump back in if that is okay with the Executive Director.

So for Lisa's expanded excuse me for Dr. Handley's proposed expanded work in regard to partisan fairness and analysis of voting patterns, it will require additional data.

It will require additional dissegregation of the election data similar to what EDS undertook for the racial bloc voting analysis that she performed.

So the contract, the proposed appendix has three parts the first is Dr. Handley's which requested a 50,000 increase for the EDS portion of the work that would be required to support and advance Dr. Handley's work in those two manners that would be additional 40,000 worth of work.

And the work that Executive Director Hammersmith was just speaking about, that the additional needs for this work moving forward and for the Commission's work.

I should note the City Gate GIS amount of 100,000 is to is for the work moving forward, the additional postings, the additional server space.

It adds a lot of additional items that the Commission would need in that regard.

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And so that would take the total contract value which would be the original contract amount of 989,000 with those three component pieces again 50,000, 40,000 and 100,000 up to 1,179,000.

That would be the amendment that is offered for again this expanded work.

And the appendix C clearly sets forth what EDS will be doing.

Relative to that as well as City Gate GIS.

There will be additional software modifications to be done for the partisan fairness work.

And that this is I wanted to highlight that this is not only the servers but it's also that coding in the software modifications that to move the work forward.

Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair.

And I can answer any questions.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Chair Szetela, Commissioner Lett has a hand.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I was going to ask if you would facilitate discussion.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Will do.

Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: As I would move the adoption and approval of appendix C as permitted and if I have a second, I would speak to it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Eid has seconded.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I have reviewed the appendix C and it appears to be appropriate.

The amounts appear to be appropriate.

Certainly they are doing things that we have asked for in the past.

And today to help us accomplish it.

So I think it's fully appropriate that we cannot expect them to do it for free and this appears to be appropriate extension of the contract.

I would move its acceptance.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right is there any other debate or discussion, MC, do you see anyone else?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Would being able to view the partisan fairness measurements in real time be included in part of this? Or is that was that already included in the previous contract?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Through the Vice Chair thank you so much through the Vice Chair to Commissioner Eid it's my understanding that there are -- so the three identified measures that Dr. Handley intends to utilize are the lopsided margins, mean median and efficiency gap analysis.

So there are currently partisan fairness measures again as I stated earlier acceptable measures has distinct meaning and interpreted by the courts to have tests that are accepted or those types of things.

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So it is my understanding at this point that there are partisan fairness measures in the software.

But additional ones are...will be added as well as the additional data to support those measures.

So that is a key part of it.

And I believe when Mr. Brace was with us yesterday, he said you know that those measures would be added in the next day or so.

So what Dr. Handley will do is give the Commission a report and findings on those analyses.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Director Hammersmith?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: There will have to be a significant amount of calculations added in that database and that is also part of this work.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.

And I'll just try to summarize I think Chair Commissioner Lett said it well but seems this is also to help us stay in compliance and do some of the work we sort of need to help prove that this is how we do it.

I do not see any other hands in the room.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay then let's go ahead and vote.

A motion on the table to adopt the draft appendix C to the EDS contract.

All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes carry.

And the appendix C is adopted.

Motion is adopted.

All right at this point we are going we do not have any minutes to approve so we are going to move on to staff reports.

I would ask without objection our communication and Outreach Director Edward Woods III to provide a report.

Hearing no objections please proceed, Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you.

Just updating until we get all of the maps on, we are still work in progress and we are due until tomorrow to have all the maps uploaded to the site and just want you to know we are still working on that.

But once again the deadline is tomorrow as confirmed by EDS.

And thank you to them for the partnership and our ability to be more user friendly in providing this information to the media and to the public thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you very much Michigan Department of State, Sarah Reinhardt do you have any updates for us?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: No updates thank you.

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

All right correspondence received to the Commission was provided to Commissioners and their packets received in advance of this meeting.

Do we have any future agenda items to discuss Executive Director Hammersmith?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: There are none at this time.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay so no future agenda items are there any announcements?

All right I'm not seeing any announcements.

As the items on our agenda have been completed, I would entertain a motion to adjourn at this time.

So moved.

Second.

Motion made by Commissioner Witjes.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Second by Commissioner Rothorn.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Second by Commissioner Rothorn is there any debate or discussion on the motion? Hearing none let's vote all in favor to motion to adjourn by Commissioner Witjes and seconded by Commissioner Rothorn raise your hand and say aye.

Opposed raise your hand and say nay.

The ayes prevail and the motion is adopted.

The meeting is adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Thank you everybody.