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MICRC

09/30/21 10:00 am Meeting

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>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: As Vice Chair of the Commission, we will bring the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to order at 10:02 a.m.

This Zoom webinar is being live streamed on YouTube at [redistricting MI](http://redistrictingmi.com).

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

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

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

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

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

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Good morning, Commissioners. Please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please Announce during roll call you are attending remotely and disclose your physical location. I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

Juanita Curry? Commissioner Curry can you hear us? I can see that you are present and I will mark you as present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

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?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> 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: 10 Commissioners are present.

And there is a quorum.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Witjes.

Do I have a second?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Second.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Seconded by Commissioner Vallette.

Is there any discussion or debate on the motion? Seeing

It's moved and seconded to adopt the agenda all in favor raise your hand and say aye.

Opposed raise your hand and say nay.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I think I turned it down.

Let me see.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: The ayes prevail and it's adopted.

Next, I'd like to move to unfinished business and continue our discussion from yesterday about schedule adjustments.

Without objection I would like Executive Director Hammersmith to summarize what we discussed to begin our discussion today Director Hammersmith please proceed.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Good morning, everyone as we talked yesterday it seemed clear there are three options you can explore on changing your schedule if you want to get a little more mapping time in before the map the proposed draft maps are sent out for public viewing and for the public comment period.

So one of the options you talked about was eliminating public hearings.

I would say we've had a consistent message that we want public comment.

We've advertised the public hearings.

Changing the dates is probably a forgivable but eliminating them may not be so forgivable.

And I think nine public hearings shows the Commission commitment to the third criteria.

So we are going to listen for communities of interest and listen to people and everywhere we are go we are telling the people we talk with that we want their input into this process.

So that is option one though.

You can eliminate public hearings.

A second one would be to add.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Director Hammersmith can I ask for clarity when you say eliminate public hearings do you mean out?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: No up to four.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Excuse for the interruption Commissioner Curry can you unmute yourself and tell us where you are attending remotely from?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, Juanita Curry attending remotely from Detroit Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you very much.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Good to have you with us Commissioner Curry.

Director Hammersmith please proceed.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: So that would be the one option would be to eliminate up to four of the public hearings.

A second option would be to add three days now.

You can meet all the way through next week.

We have the facility available to us.

In order to do that we would have to move two public hearings and November 1st and 2nd we talked about taking the first two on our schedule and moving them to the end.

So we would start on the 14th of October with Marquette.

But when you do that, you lose three days of deliberation in November.

So and the third option then would be work through the maps today, tomorrow, Monday and Tuesday as we had talked about.

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We would start the public hearings on schedule in Flint, there would be three days in between that the maps could be published.

So CSS and EDS will do all their work to make sure they are published so people know what is being provided.

The proposed draft maps.

And then that would provide three more days to deliberate in November.

So basically, it's a give or take. If you take extra days now, you're going to lose them in November.

So the question is when do you want to have the most time for deliberations, up front for the proposed draft maps? Or later on for the maps that will be published for the 45 day period of public comment?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: All right thanks for that summary.

So let's there are two options there.

First one can you just summarize, I want to call it option A and option B and yeah.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: So there are really three.

One is to do fewer public hearings.

So there is time in that space.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: And do fewer public hearings but we would still have three extra days and we could do fewer public hearings is that.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Well if you depends on what you how you would reduce your public hearings.

You could gain three to five days somewhere.

Either at the beginning or end of the process.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: If I understand correctly the three options can be combined.

They are not necessarily distinct options is that also accurate?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Yes.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: So the second option would be to work through next week, you would gain three extra days and drafting proposed draft maps.

Or you could if you don't do that and keep the schedule, then you will have those three days when you're deliberating after you have heard all the public comment in the second round.

And I would say you know the maps don't have to be perfect.

You've looked at a lot of different options.

You've heard public comment on a lot of options.

There's still a lot of time to move the lines.

So I don't think, I would aim for very good obviously I know you want to put out a good product.

But again you know those lines may change after you hear all the public comment and go in to the second deliberation period after the public hearings.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: And that was the third option you presented, that was the second? I just want to make sure we got all three options the first one being fewer days.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Fewer public hearings.

The second one is to add three days now and lose them for the second round of deliberations after public hearings.

And the third would be to get the work done today, tomorrow, Monday and Tuesday. And then keep the original schedule.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay thank you for that clarification.

Commissioner Orton did you have a question?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Well to me it sounds like you really have an opinion of what we should do.

Does our staff have an opinion and why is that?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Well we realize we can have opinions but you vote.

It's your choice.

But you know I'm concerned about eliminating public hearings because they have been advertised.

They are on our website.

You're going to get a lot of push back from people who thought they could go to a public hearing in their community and you know want to have that voice there.

But the other two options are basically timing issues.

Do you want three more days now for your proposed draft maps? Or do you want three days later then for your draft maps if you keep the public hearings.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Lange I see your hand I'm just going to keep going with Cynthia then come back to you.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I would like to see the options written out so like in an e-mail or something so I can really digest that

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Lange looks like you are being thought full too.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I just want to give my opinion.

I don't think moving the dates to the first week, the first and second of November are good.

As I stated yesterday November 2nd is election day.

That could potentially keep people from attending the hearing.

And I think option three, I mean I don't want to get rid of public hearings.

Yesterday it seemed like the idea to do but I think option three is the best option.

Yesterday we wasted over an hour debating this exact thing we are debating now.

I think we as Commissioners just need to be more efficient, maybe not go on and on and on, on the same topics and just put our nose to the grindstone and do the work. That's my thought.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thanks Commissioner Lange so the third option I just recognized that because we don't have it written out for us right now, and because Commissioner Orton did ask for that, I'm just wondering Director Hammersmith would you be willing to sort soft share that? I think you did have that written out could you share that with Commissioner Orton.

I think what Commissioner Lange is saying to expedite our work and that's the third option at least to say hey today can we put our nose to the grindstone today and get our VRA analysis done on the three maps that are still remaining meaning Congressional, house and Senate and there is more than three of each that's what our task could be today.

And I do believe we have our voting rights analyst Mr. Adelson with us today but not tomorrow is that also accurate?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I'm unsure on that Julianne would know.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We do have Lisa Dr. Lisa.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Dr. Handley is tomorrow.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Get a partisan fairness.

So if we do is there more discussion perhaps? We've had a request for Commissioner Clark, please.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Comments, one I think there is a fourth option.

Commissioner Witjes yesterday put forth the idea that we work 16 hour days. It's an option.

I know it's not a popular one.

But to get the work done.

And I would expect that to be one of the four options that we have to choose from.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Is that an option at MSU or do we have limited hours when we are working next week?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I believe we could stay until 7:00 p.m. but I can check that out if you wanted to work later.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Let's make sure that is an option so we can at least explore it.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I can check that and come back at the beginning of our 5:00 meeting and wrap this up then so you can get on to your other work of drafting maps.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: That sounds great Director Hammersmith.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: The other comments I had were number one I think I mentioned this yesterday why don't we get three draft maps put together, our finalized maps and that's what we submit.

And get people to comment on them.

We all know people want Midland or don't want Midland where they are all and know people want Flint or not Flint in a certain area.

The Kalamazoo Battle Creek thing but we need more comments before we spend time doing these.

So we get one Congressional map one Senate map and one house map that is our recommendation at this point as a temporary.

And then get comments on that.

That would speed up the process.

And then the last item I want to mention is I think no matter which option we have we need an alternative plan put together be by our staff on what happens if we don't meet the November 5th date.

What are we going to do? How are we going to move forward to do that? And there is a possibility we don't meet the November 5th date because we may not agree on some of these things.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Vallette did you have a comment too?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I don't mean to put Mr. Morgan in the spotlight, but when will we be able to know if we have mappers on Thursday and Friday or have you already told us?

>> MR. MORGAN: For next week.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> MR. MORGAN: We will figure it out so we can accommodate you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Do you think we will have mappers we could have mappers all week, all five days.

>> MR. MORGAN: Yes.

Again I don't know what the configuration of your mappers will be, but I'm sure we will work it out for you.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Okay so that is another option that we work five days next week instead of three and that also adds two more days to.

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

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Actually I just wanted to bring to your attention Commissioner Wagner has had her digital hand up for a while and I don't know if you can see it because her camera is not on.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I cannot see it and Commissioner Witjes did you have, so Commissioner Wagner did you want to comment and then Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Thank you Vice Chair.

My opinion is I agree with Rhonda.

I don't think we should eliminate public hearings.

However, and I know this is probably going to be unpopular what if we add weekends is that an option?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thanks Commissioner Wagner.

Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Why can't we do both, why can't we add full week next week and three days after the public hearings?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: So the comment was a full week next week to add and also the public comment public hearings is that right.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: No why can't we do work all next week, have a public hearings then work after the public hearings? Am I missing something here?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: The deliberations correct and adjusting maps.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: After the hearing.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think that is possible if I understand it correctly what we are looking for and what we need are our consultants need at least two days to get all the constitutional requirements.

Can you speak to that Director Hammersmith?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Yes, there needs to be three days minimum before public hearings and then in an ideal world there would be a week so there is plenty of time to respond.

But there has to be at least three days to process the data and publish it on our website. So if you take all next week and those three days bump into the following week, then you can't do public hearings the first week.

You would have to bump those a full week out.

Then you lose those three days of deliberation after public hearings.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Okay, so that is not the way that it should be done.

If we were to so we are meeting next week nor a little bit, correct?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: That's what we have to vote on.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: You have not voted on it yet.

I proposed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday so if you map on Monday and Tuesday, finish on Tuesday that would give three days to process.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Here I'm just going to do this, I'll make a motion that we work Monday and Tuesday next week then we add the three days after the public hearings to make the changes to the maps because we need to be able to listen to the individuals and make changes based on their suggestions and if we don't do that what is the point of the public hearings at the end.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Can you please clarify the three days.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: So we work Monday and Tuesday next week.

That allows our vendors to get the maps and do what they need to do.

We have our public hearings all of them so then we have.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Starting October 11.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: How it was scheduled to begin with then we have those three days after we get back or after the public hearings end to make changes and deliberate further.

Which is basically what I heard option C to be.

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Those are actually six days, it's three extra days if you do more work up front, you lose three days.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Monday Tuesday next week and then the three days extra at the end.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I second that.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Lange? Okay great.

So the motion on the table is to confirm for next week that we would meet Monday and Tuesday and the times and the location would be confirmed later by staff to allow Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the consultants to finish what they need to do to get us prepared for Monday start as scheduled for the public hearings.

Is the motion clear? It's been seconded.

Any discussion on the matter?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: So if we work Monday and Tuesday next week, we can keep all the hearings as they are.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: That is correct.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: We are adding three days after the hearings?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Actually there is six days of deliberations after the public hearings built into the calendar.

So you would have six days, there is a Friday and then the full following week that you could do deliberations to get to your proposed maps that will be published then for the 45 day period of public comment.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Any other discussion on the motion? Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Director Hammersmith can you also and possibly get back with us at our 5:00 p.m. if it's possible for those Monday and Tuesday days will you see if there is availability beyond our normal schedule going to 5:00 p.m. or 6, 7, 8 in if we need the regular time beyond our regular meetings that are scheduled?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: I will check that Yvonne is in the building with us today and I will check with her and see if we can go later on Monday and Tuesday.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN:

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: You're welcome.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Wagner since I can't see your hand did you have any thoughts before we sort of move to the vote? Okay thank you.

Any other discussion? All right let's take a vote.

All in favor of the motion, let's do roll call, thank you.

Secretary of State will you help us out?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely.

Just one moment.

Absolutely just one moment.

Commissioners please indicate your support of the motion with a yes or a no.

The motion being to add next Monday and Tuesday as workdays to the agenda am I stating that correctly Mr. Chair? Thank you please indicate your support of the motion with a yes or a no.

I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Doug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Unanimous vote of yes, the motion carries.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Staff you have what you need in order to so we will meet, all right, so we are going to move on to unfinished business agenda item 4. Is that right? Unfinished business, and we will just return to our, yeah, unfinished business item four.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Mr. Chair.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: There is two questions in the room so Commissioner Witjes then Commissioner Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Continuing on what I think Doug said to see if we can potentially or no, I think there is Rhonda where you said next week if we can stay until 7 or 8.

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Can we make sure that we also do that for the six days that we have after our public hearings if we need to stay later then as well? So that is just something to consider.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Commissioner Witjes, Commissioner Clark did you have something in.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes, before we start mapping as we go to these hearings, we have not determined how many maps we're going to bring.

And I recommended one of each.

And that's our recommendation.

But then each of the Commissioners can submit maps as well.

But we don't want to get overloaded with maps at these hearings.

And if we continue to make these discussions, we could walk out of here today with ten Congressional and ten Senate and ten house maps so I think we should set perimeters around what we will deliver to the public.

And I mean my recommendation is one of each and get the discussion going from there.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I appreciate that Commissioner Clark and I see Commissioner Lange's hand did you want to respond to that Commissioner Lange?

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

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Secretary of State excuse me Commissioner Lange Secretary of State.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Lange you are welcome to go ahead.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I will let you go first just in case it says what I'm going to say.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

Commissioner Clark, I appreciate your comments regarding limiting the number of maps.

As you may recall from my overview of the deliberations process yesterday, that is one of the initial steps of deliberations once you begin.

Is determining the number of collaborative maps that you will take forward into the public hearings.

And additionally any Commissioner who wants to put forth at least one or sorry one map, not at least, just one map for each District type is allowed to do so.

Per the Constitution.

so the only type of maps that you could limit as I think you're suggesting are the collaborative maps.

And that is part of the deliberative process.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: And that is what my focus was.

I realize the issue on the others but let's put it this way, if we do excluding collaborative maps, if each of us submit one from each of the others, that's 36 maps.

Or 39 maps.

It's just going to overwhelm the public.

But and even if we submit five collaborative maps that's going to overwhelm the public. And that is why I made that suggestion.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Commissioner Clark and Commissioner Lange you still have a hand and I see you Commissioner Curry and I think Commissioner Witjes also had a hand so Commissioner Lange first Commissioner Witjes then Commissioner Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I agree we need to set I would probably be okay with one on some of the maps.

But like on the house where you have 110 different districts, I would say at least two collaborative on those would be nice because I have seen some differences in the two that I could go either way on one and maybe the public could help us narrow it down better.

So I'm open to that discussion when the time is right for that.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Witjes then Commissioner Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I was going to suggest one collaborative map of each until Commissioner Lange just gave that nice important point.

And I do -- one collaborative map for the Senate, one for the Congressional and two or potentially even three collaborative maps for the house to bring forward seems to be okay with me.

And doable.

And then I don't know how many of you all plan on drawing their own maps.

So saying that we are going to have 36, 8, 39 maps in front of everybody to look at seems like a farfetched number because I don't think everyone will be submitting their own versions.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thanks Commissioner Witjes. Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, hi.

I concur with Rhonda when it comes to the maps.

We should have at least two Congressional maps and then probably possibly two of them of the maps so they would have something to choose from instead of just looking at one.

So it's mostly what Rhonda had my thoughts on that.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I'm going to try to summarize what we are trying to do is put our heads down today and work so we will and I think what we are going to have more information after tomorrow after the partisan fairness measures and we will know the most on Monday when we will have all the maps in front of us.

So I think if we can sort of hold the complexity, I think Commissioner Clark is trying to help us understand we may need to make hard decisions earlier but we may not know

we want to eliminate things until we have all that information which comes again tomorrow and finally on Monday and Director Hammersmith?

>> MS. SUANN HAMMERSMITH: Would it be helpful if we knew how many Commissioners plan to submit maps for districts and do they plan to submit for all districts or only one type of map?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioners that is a question. Would anyone like to know, Commissioner Witjes do you have a comment? So Commissioner Witjes would like to know.

So and Rhonda, I see you shaking your head you don't need to know is that the idea? Okay I don't know if I'm not seeing I'm seeing a couple shaking heads like we don't need to know.

I'm unsure how to proceed.

Do we want to take some time and actually try to talk about our plans or do we want to work? Thank you, Commissioner Lett, the suggestion is to please tell Director Hammersmith during break if you plan on it. And I see your hand Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I was just going to say it really doesn't matter who plans on submitting their maps because we all have the opportunity somebody could decide at the last-minute so that part of it is kind of irrelevant to me.

And I say we get to work like now.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yeah, that is my feeling, too. Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I'll be open and have three maps one of each submitted Monday or before so take it as you will, so that is three for me.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: With that and seeing no other sort of hands in the room and Rhonda or Commissioner Curry you will help me with Commissioner Wagner? Thank you.

So, yeah, I think we are ready to move on to our unfinished business which is to continue mapping adjustments and deliberation.

So we ended the mapping yesterday with Commissioner Szetela and me adjusting lines in the Detroit Metro area.

So we will continue making adjustments in that area this morning.

Commissioner Vallette? You are in the rotation.

Would you like to instruct the line drawer? Yes, I believe we are working on the House Districts.

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I would like to pass.

Thank you I would like to pass because I really would like someone who actually knows what we're looking for and I'm not certain that I'm the best person to do that.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay, thank you Commissioner Vallette. Commissioner Wagner, how are you feeling?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I was going to wind up passing today as well Vice Chair because my eyesight is just too blurry to do this.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Understood thank you Commissioner Wagner take care.

We are on to Commissioner Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES:

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Forgive me Commissioner Weiss.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: I guess I'm not real familiar with that area.

And I really do like you guys are from there.

You have done I think a pretty good job of moving stuff around, whether it's acceptable or not, that is another story.

But I guess I'd like you to continue doing it.

I would just assume pass and maybe when we get up in my area maybe I would have a little more comment.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Commissioner Weiss.

Commissioner Curry do you have a hand? We can't hear you.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Are we speaking of the Detroit area?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We are talking about the Detroit area that's right.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay I don't mind taking a shot at it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay Commissioner Weiss since we are still at you would you like Commissioner Curry to help you? Trying to honor the rotation we are in or pass and Commissioner Curry we will get to you in about two turns and we will see how it goes, is that okay?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Sure.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay thank you so Commissioner Witjes back to you.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: I just have a question in regards to the districts and the adjustments that we have, are they at first glance VRA compliant?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: What we have gotten from Mr. Adelson as of yesterday I will try to summarize it I'm looking to see if my summary is accurate, we have two drafts so the ones I will call it the RAS right version that was, that is more VRA compliant and not totally.

And the one the first version that we drew is less VRA compliant.

I don't think we have sort of an actual check box as you are good.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Looking at the districts we have, how much thinner can they get and how much further can they extent out before they are one precinct or one actual voting precinct wide.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Right which I think you and Commissioner Curry I think would be able to help sort of like balance those communities of interest and say no we are going to as a Commission right we can under your direction we could essentially say we believe that this is the best that we are going to be able to do because of these

you know all the different factors that we are taking into consideration including the voting rights analysis and then ask for that sort of analysis to be or excuse me the partisan fairness to be run tomorrow.

That is the task is to sort of come to some kind of conclusion, understand why we are doing it.

And, yeah, justify leaving it or continuing to tweak and sorry Commissioner Witjes Commissioner Clark has a comment.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, when we start this mapping that Juanita is going to do.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We are on Commissioner Witjes at this point.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Commissioner Witjes will do will we begin with the map may we finished with yesterday or the previous one we had done.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: That is up to Commissioner Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yeah, I honestly think that I don't want to say they are the best districts that we can create.

But I do think they are decent at this particular point.

And I don't know the area.

So unfortunately when it comes to minute adjustments I'm going to have to pass because I don't know where to potentially make them.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Understood.

Thanks Commissioner Witjes.

Commissioner Clark we are to you.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Focusing just on Detroit area.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Because of the way we want to work today to use our time in order to actually have a partisan fairness we want to have a voting rights analysis first.

Because that is our first criteria in the Constitution, we want to have as much compliance regarding the voting rights as possible before we move to the fourth criteria which is partisan fairness so that is the task today is to in those districts in Detroit and with our VRA expert with us in the room today yes that is the task.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I may or some other Commissioner may have something outside of the Detroit area that we would want to deal with on the Voting Rights Act as well.

So just want to point that out.

I would for this area at this point I would rather pass and let Commissioner Curry you know she is very familiar with the area, have her.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thanks Commissioner Clark, Commissioner Curry we are to you.

And Commissioner Curry you were with us yesterday.

I know you had a doctor's appointment and had to leave I'm wondering do you want some orientation to where we left or would you like to just begin? Do you have a sense of where you want to start.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Give me a sort of orientation where you left off.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yesterday what John has we are looking at the house map.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: For the Detroit area.

And this is the looks like it's the original John; is that correct? No, so this is the adjusted map.

An adjustment means this is the version I suppose yesterday that was more VRA compliant.

That does not mean it is VRA compliant but it's more VRA compliant and what it does is it's primarily Dearborn area which I believe is District 7, I'm not sure.

District 7 and 8 and thank you, there was 3 and 7.

So let me just help finish orienting so what we did Juanita was also adjusted because the Dearborn area was adjusted without diluting the Arab American vote, we adjusted 15, 16 and 17 and those were the areas where Redford had been divided.

Redford Township had been divided and Livonia divided three ways and with this reconfiguration it's Livonia has two splits, three splits rather than five.

And Redford has split twice rather than I think three times.

So that's why the adjustments were made.

And again this is more compliant with the Voting Rights Act.

And I think what we are trying to do now or the next steps are to so that we were sort of the method we were using Juanita is to start with District 1 go to 2, 3, 4 and just check all of them up to 18, up to District 18.

I think what we have done now is looked at 1, 2, 3 I think 14, 15 and 17.

And I'm going to try to write those down because I don't remember and need other Commissioners to help me with that but we want to proceed with District 5 maybe, maybe 4, District 4 I think if we just go trying to go sequentially.

To create a District in 4 that is more VRA compliant than what we currently have.

And again for me actually being VRA compliant balance the Black voting age population may be in a place where it's balanced with the white population and will it be an opportunity to elect District.

Again I think that is yeah without getting too wordy that's I think the best orientation I can give you to start with 4, continue on as best you can just trying to make adjustments.

Commissioner Witjes has a hand.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: All right, so a couple things that I'm having a hard time wrestling with here is the term more and less VRA compliant.

That is a definite philosophical question that I can't answer.

And you can always keep getting more and more and more and more.

I think it is at this particular point.

I'm not an expert in it.

But I think it needs the analysis.

And I think if we continue to -- the common phrase in school is don't change an answer on a multiple choice question because you're going to get it wrong nine times out of ten if you do that, not nine times out of ten but the chances of you moving it to a wrong answer is greater than if you would just leave it alone.

We can continue to tweak these lines for years.

To try and get it perfect.

We don't have the time for it.

I think we should be focusing somewhere else at this particular point for make it as good as possible and bring it to the actual people in our public hearings and have them comment on it.

Because we are always going to be about to get more and if we keep chasing more, we will never get to the end.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Dustin you have a point but you have to realize a lot of people work and are not able to come to these meetings, these open meetings we are having.

So because I left yesterday without hearing all of the orientation Grosse Pointe, I remember saying they wanted to be somehow eased into Detroit.

Now for what I don't know.

Because that's the only place in Detroit or on this map I don't frequent.

I don't see anything contiguous with it.

I don't see anything that most people in Detroit, river Rouge, Ecorse, Detroit, southwest Lincoln Park Allen Park I don't see any of those people even going that way so I don't know maybe we need to tweak it some.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Commissioner Curry, Commissioner Orton has a thought.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: It might be the same thing Dustin is saying I can't really hear over here but I feel like we really took a lot into consideration when we were through here the first time and I feel like as long as we are VRA compliant we need to pay attention to communities of interest.

And I know we really did pay attention to communities of interest in this Grosse Pointe area so I think we should kind of let what we did seek or let the communities of interest speak.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: I agree I think we did go through this.

I think what we should be looking at now is communities of interest and if anyone in particular has something that they remembered like Ottawa when we went there and we looked at that like Midland, I mean, I don't think that we have enough time to go through you know, all of this and do every single thing at this time.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Back to you Curry and then Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Why did we come back to Detroit because pretty much the Voting Rights Act and everything was pretty much intact.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think our analyst will get there and I want Commissioner Lange first.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm going to second what everybody is saying because once we have the analysis we may have to come back in and make changes any ways and changes after the hearings so if it's not broke at the moment, let's not mess it up anymore.

There was a lot of thought that went into it.

There was you know analysis, you know, not the in depth but there was analysis done and I don't want to screw up what we have now if there are other areas to focus on.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I think MC we ought to deal with Vice Chair we ought to deal with Ottawa.

We got so much information on that the other day.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay and you are welcome to do that.

I just want to make sure that our consultant here Bruce Adelson has an opportunity to speak go ahead Mr. Adelson.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Thank you Commissioner Rothorn.

You know I understand the discussion today.

And I understand that the you know the time constraints and the myriad issues that there are.

And I will reiterate what I said yesterday and previously.

Even if you look at these two as issues you have a District, District 6 that is 64% non-Hispanic Black voting age population.

Could you go down, please on the demographics, John? I want to look at District 18. And you have District 18 that is almost 77% non-Hispanic Black voting age population. We've discussed that previously.

We've discussed that these numbers are well in excess of what Dr. Handley analyzed. And in excess of what I've advised the Commission.

So you know, the choice of what to look at, examine, adjust, of course is up to the Commission.

But those are two serious districts that have significantly more population than Dr. Handley recommended in her analysis.

And that she and I agree about.

We have discussed.

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So there are several districts on the table that have some issues and I'm only looking at this narrow frame with the Voting Rights Act.

We have not there have not been at least to my knowledge adjustments with District 18 for example.

So I think there are many considerations.

There will be more considerations.

The process that is occurring now and has occurred all week is a typical aspect of redistricting is making, is adjusting, modifying, trying, various aspects to get to where you need to go from a legal perspective.

And I think my colleague has a comment.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: General Counsel?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Lange then Commissioner Witjes.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much I wanted to again reiterate the comments I made yesterday with the remaining time that the Commission has before November 5th the remaining time that the Commission has prior to the second round of public hearings starting is the most pressing issue.

And as it currently stands, the Commission for the compliance work it needs to do, to ensure the maps that are able to be published to trigger and allow the Commission to have the second round of public hearings, they have to be legally compliant to the constitutional ranked criteria.

And at this on September 30th, there is not a statewide plan that the Commission has gone through the compliance analysis on.

And I know we are expecting Dr. Handley tomorrow.

But Bruce and I have excuse me Mr. Adelson and I have highlighted some of the other issues with the plans that need to be addressed.

So my fear is that the longer the Commission spends drawing the lines and making adjustments to the lines prior to doing that the compliance analysis, the less time that there will be to publish those maps and adhere to either the current public hearing schedule or a modified one if the Commission chooses.

But again the time public will be able to provide feedback on the published maps the Commission will be able to make adjustments to those maps after the debriefing session, so I would again strongly encourage like yesterday to use your words start fixing them.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay and I think it's to you Commissioner Lange but wondering if there is a list that you could provide us of like I think I heard District 18 for example is one that needs to be fixed.

Okay, and so back to Commissioner Lange and then Commissioner Witjes.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Mr. Adelson I'm going to ask you because we are all novices when it comes to the VRA and we can go online and read the comments that contradict a lot of what you say just as well as the next person.

So I've got a couple of specific questions that I just want you to make clear for me. So I know how to go forward.

I asked one question before about can it have a higher concentration if you're doing it for the right reasons say as to not split a community, to not split up? I had used the Bengali community about adding them in would cause the numbers to go up for the overall population African/American population, would that be okay because you're not trying to split? And then the second part to that question is if the I understand VRA becomes above other criteria but we have a criteria of community of interest so if we receive input of community of interest that says they absolutely do not want to be split and that drives up the African/American population, then is there leeway in that VRA because we are accommodating for a community of interest which is also part of our state Constitution? I understand that the Federal Constitution is above all, but is there leeway in our numbers if that's the case if these are drawn and the numbers come out the way they are because we are trying to take into consideration the other criteria?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Thank you Commissioner Lange and your question goes right to the core of one aspect of redistricting there are competing values and there will be people who may be satisfied or not satisfied.

But the bottom line is that if keeping communities of interest, not splitting them, having them implicates the packing of minority voters, the dilution of minority voters then the number one criteria is the Federal criteria.

So I've certainly seen in my career that adding communities of interest may dilute minority voting strength, may create voting rights issues may pack minority communities, implicating the 14th amendments.

So the bottom line is the Federal criteria are the absolute priority.

And there may be communities of interest that are not able to be included in certain districts because they implicate Voting Rights Act problems.

Now I know yesterday we spent a lot of time uniting Bangla Town into two districts rather than the three they had put in previously.

I think that was a positive change and positive adjustment and that was an example of a community of interest minority community of interest being satisfied up to a point by responding to their concerns, not diluting their voting strength.

We looked at the Asian voting strength, Asian American voting strength in District 10.

We looked at it in District 2 so there are a lot of considerations on the board but the bottom line is if adding, not adding, splitting, not splitting a community of interest implicates the number one criterion which is Federal law and it does that in a negative, noncompliant way then it can't be done.

And that is something that I've seen before, advised many bodies about.

I understand that that may cause some level of uneasy and disappointment in people who are watching these hearings and are voters of Michigan.

But that's part of redistricting.

The Voting Rights Act and the U.S. Constitution say what they do.

And that has been my ongoing advice to the Commission.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Witjes? Then Commissioner Orton.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Based on advice of General Counsel this needs to be finalized and be reviewed so we can quote unquote start fixing it I move that we stop working on the house map and let it go in for analysis over the next two days so we can fix it next week.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay that was a motion and I just want to make sure that because I think the fixing there was a District 18 that I think needed to be quote unquote fixed.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: And 16.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: And 16.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Pardon me 6 and 18 specifically.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yeah 6 and 18.

And then in District -- and I do think that Commissioner Eid pointed out there is a community of interest in Hamtramck in District 10 we might sort of try to pull into 2 just to comply and I don't think it's going to be a voting rights thing but that's meaning I think it's going to be okay but I just want to acknowledge that, that I think is where the spirit of fixing, it's in this map and it's District 18, District 16, and District 1.

No.

General Counsel please help.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: What I would recommend is that the Commissioner consider doing is for the active matrix to scroll starting with 1 and glance at the districts, anything that is higher than 40% for the Black voting age population and the population difference I mean just to glance at and just go down the list and then when we get to I anticipate number 6, number 18, and others that those quote unquote fixes can be dealt with and then this map can be ready for the partisan fairness analysis.

That would be my recommendation.

And if the Commission was desiring of having an alternate house map, then the map that is the product of this analysis could be used to start the clone for the new one.

But this would that changed.

Did you scroll John?

>> MR. MORGAN: Sorry I moved the two yesterday where we were comparing Commissioners Szetela's plan with the previously done plan and I was making this matrix show the combined so we could do what you described which is look at each individual District I can also bring it up in the active matrix.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for that helpful direction General Counsel? It's Commissioner Curry's turn and so I want to acknowledge Commissioner Orton first and turn it back to you Commissioner Curry and direct of fixing 6 and 18 so yeah it will be your turn after Commissioner Orton Commissioner Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So General Counsel I guess, I can't see you guys over there but I think we have been asking for specifics and the specific that I heard is that 6 and 18 need to be further unpacked? And you gave a number and 1 through all of them and if it's over a certain percent we need to look at that. So can you tell me again what that number was.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: My suggestion was and Mr. Morgan was very helpful with it, however the data is best displayed but that the Commission start with the data chart and look at the list starting with one and I would recommend anything with a higher than 40% Black voting age population be looked at. This will also give the Commission an opportunity to look at their population numbers at this time and that way by the time we get to District 110 we will know this map is okay for -- to have Dr. Handley run the partisan fairness measures. So that would be my recommendation is just scrolling down the data and if there is anything, again, that looks percentages that look kind of high, the Commission can take a closer look.

But again with the modifications that the Commission has made, again, looking at the current data percentages would be what I would recommend and then when we see those districts, we can address them and make sure that all of them are addressed is my goal.

By going through the chart in this fashion.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay so our Chair has returned. So I'm going to turn it over to Chair Szetela and.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yep so, I will take over from here. First, I'd like to remind everyone, take it off? Commissioner Woods were you going to ask me to remind everybody?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: That is what I was about to do remind everybody we are required to wear masks in the building so if everybody could get their masks on, I would appreciate that.

This map we have open right now just so I'm oriented this is a full map we have of the full state with the changes I had suggested yesterday. Is that.

>> MR. MORGAN: Yes, that's correct. I made the changes as directed. We stipulated I would do that.

I uploaded the plan and this is the same plan copied over to a new file for adjustments and working today.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay thank you for that orientation.

So it is Commissioner Curry's turn and so per General Counsel's request I think what she is suggesting we just go down the districts one by one and anything that is over 40% look if we can rebalance it so looking at the District numbers, I'm looking at number 2 would sort of be the first candidate can we rebalance because it's 57% African/American.

Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay so this has been said like three times but I'm confused now.

This map we are looking at, is in the map that we all came up with? Or is this the one that you redid?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I believe from Mr. Morgan it is the map that we all did together outside of the Detroit area.

But it includes the changes I proposed yesterday for the VRA purposes so he folded my neighborhood changes into this map.

>> MR. MORGAN: That is correct from my understanding that is what I have in front of us.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Can we go look at those changes again to see if we all agree with that? I don't recall what that was.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Two things, no, actually just one thing.

We are supposed to be looking at the voting age population percentages, correct?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I believe so.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Why is the minority column blank?

>> MR. MORGAN: It's going to be the inverse of the non-Hispanic white so I can give you that information.

It's the inverse of this.

So in this second District it's going to be 75.4.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Got it that is all I needed to know.

I can do that in my own head.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: You can also grab on your if you have it open pull it's an excel sheet so you can just pull it down.

So Commissioner Orton did you want to see the other map?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Remind me of the changes that you made.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: It was a lot of small tweaks.

I think probably easiest thing would be to pull up the old map and then put the shape file back over it because then you can see because I adjusted the borders of Dearborn,

Dearborn Heights, Redford, Livonia and a bunch of small tweaks all the way up to get rid of what people were calling the bacon strip.

>> MR. MORGAN: The request is to show the districts 1 as a layer as a shape layer and then one being in the mapping software.

Okay so right now I have the adjusted plan on the screen.

So I can try to either go back to the previous one and show the adjusted as an outline or I can show the previous one as an outline on this map.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Whichever is quicker.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay just a moment.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: No one is seeing my hand but while we are waiting for him to do that so can I just have some further clarification.

So we are going to go through and we are going to look anything above 40% because we want to be make sure that the whole plan is VRA compliant.

Does that mean so this is a -- this is a densely populated minority population City so does that mean anything above 40% is not VRA compliant?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Through the Chair to Commissioner Orton, yes, I think as you start again with the list at District 1 and look at that the Black VAP, if it's above that 40% particularly in the Metro Detroit area how that can be minimized and I know from the chart that Mr. Morgan had displayed Chairperson Szetela mentioned District 2 but it's also 6, 8 and 14 from that list.

But again looking at the chart, the data will enable you to verify the population deviation, look at the Black voting age population and proceed from there.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Does that make sense Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: No, not really.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm getting on board with Commissioner Orton here.

I need some type, and I mean no disrespect but I need set boundaries on what we need to go.

It's going to make our job a lot easier so we are not guessing.

So if I could get something that said 35-45% if you stay within that you're good.

That is going to help me.

Especially in areas that we're not familiar with.

I think that's what Commissioner Orton and she can correct me if I'm wrong but I think we are looking for a direct guidance as far as an absolute number so help, please.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah, Commissioner Lange that is my understanding of what we are looking for is we are trying to bring things between 35-40% because based on Dr. Handley's analysis of racially polarized voting that those percentages would enable minority candidates to elect their candidate of choice in the Metro Detroit area because it's so highly concentrated and so highly democratic.

So that is sort of the sort of boundary line Mr. Adelson is encouraging us to bring the districts down to if we can.

I'm not necessarily sure we will be able to just given the density of the area but that is kind of what he is suggested we do is these Districts that are 59% African/American or 60% that we try to bring them closer to that 40%.

General Counsel did you have a comment?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you Madam Chair yes, I was going to highlight Dr. Handley's racial block voting analysis and offer to the Commission when you were drawing the original districts the range for Detroit was 35-40%, Oakland County was above 40%.

So it's based on the area you were in, that is why that's why I flagged the 40% to kind of go through and have that just as the identifier to use.

And then see what area you're in and then you can that will provide the further guidance.

So again the goal is looking at the chart the data chart that will show the equal population deviation, it will show the Black voting age population, and that will enable the Commission to go through line by line and flag any issues either with equal population or with the Black voting age and my recommendation again I know District 18 was one of them but rather than try to remember or call out which districts might need to be looked at my recommendation is that you start with number 1 on the chart and just look through the data to identify what districts would need to be adjusted even if you just make a list and then go back and start fixing them.

Was that helpful?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: It is now I'm looking for Dr. Handley's report again so thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Why don't we make it simple and do what you suggested General Counsel and come up with a list.

I think that would be easy so Metro Detroit area and I'm just going to start writing this down so right now we have District two and John you want to go ahead.

>> MR. MORGAN: Since Commissioner Orton was still asking for a comparison of the boundaries of the two different plans, we also went through the exercise yesterday of showing the demographics of both of those two side by side.

So I could do that both like we have the spreadsheet on one view and then the map on the other.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: That would be helpful.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: While we went on that my screen has went very foggy, fuzzy, I can't see people or whatever so if they can straighten that out camera men.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We have fuzziness over here too so they are working on something.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Madam Chair Szetela sed yes Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Before you sat down, they said something about someone I think it was either John or Bruce said that it was 18 and 6 or 18 and another number I think it was two they already had kind of brought that to our attention they were over packed and maybe we could look at those.
So they only named two.

>> MR. MORGAN: Commissioner Curry this is John Morgan to answer your question it was District 18 and 6.

I think you should be able to see the screen with those districts.

And then also to Commissioner Orton's question, I think I'm showing the plan that was worked on before the adjustments from Commissioner Szetela.

And then Commissioner Szetela's adjustments are in the dark blue lines.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay great, I see it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So most of the changes are around the Livonia, Redford and Dearborn area so you see how it's minor adjustments to those changes and Dearborn I made the District more north south instead of east west.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY:

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: So I'm wondering where we are at.

I think John has got the map up so do we bring the spreadsheet up is that the idea next?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I think Commissioner Orton is looking at the changes.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I'm just looking at it thank you.

Sorry my brain was done by the end of the day yesterday.

Okay thank you John.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Very briefly again if the Commission wanted to preserve the collaborative map, if the Commission wanted to analyze Commissioner Szetela's map, the Commission decides the number of plans to publish.

So if that was another way to move forward and I know you have I believe the house is the only map that we only have one plan on.

So that would also be again an option if the Commission wanted to move forward in that manner.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So are you still looking at this Cynthia? Or are you okay so basically the goal of this was to target those VRA numbers because they were I had the paper yesterday but it's in my bag but they were originally 70% for 14, 15 and 17. So this brought it closer and a 15% drop.

And Mr. Adelson's suggestion yesterday is we try to take them down further.

And General Counsel's general suggestion we go through starting at one and identify where we might need additional work and start going through and start making those proposed changes.

Does that make sense?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Go ahead Commissioner Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I kind of thought about half an hour ago that's what I don't know if it was John or is Kent there one of them had already said let's tweak or we need to look at 18 and 6.

So if we follow their little guide, we can kind of eliminate all these questions and stuff we are doing right?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So 18 and 6 are definitely the highest.

18 has 76% African/American.

6 has 64% African/American.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Absolutely.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We have other Districts that are high as well with 60, 64%, 59, yeah so, we have quite a few.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: We got to get started somewhere.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We can certainly start with 6 and 18 if that's where you want to start Commissioner Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I'm waiting until you finish because we are asking questions, questions, questions all morning and have not got to anything yet.

And I know questions are relevant but they have kind of guided us already what to do.

If we are going to hit that and everybody kind of work on those two then we can find the rest of them and get something accomplished.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yep.

We could start with District six and try to do some rebalancing there.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I want to start with 18.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: You go where you want to go.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Cynthia are you through, are we interfering with you?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I'm through.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I'm familiar with the okay Dale and Hazel Park area and whatever is under that borderline there.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Mr. Morgan?

>> MR. MORGAN: If I may, do we want to which map do you want to make these changes, proposed changes in to? The one that was revised yesterday or the one that was pre-revision from yesterday.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Who are you asking, John?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: What did you say Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Trying to see who he was referring the question to because at the end of the day I don't know because I wasn't there.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Curry he is asking do you want to start with the old map or the map with my revisions from yesterday.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Let's go with your revisions from yesterday.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: You said with the revisions is that correct Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes, thank you.

We got to start somewhere.

>> MR. MORGAN: So I'm changing back to that just one moment while I change to the revision map.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: You all don't want that one.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: He was using the original map so we got to get back to the one with the revisions.

>> MR. MORGAN: I'm confirming this is the revision maps and Commissioner Curry wants to look at District 18 currently comprised of Huntington Woods Oak Park and a portion of Detroit.

It looks like is that on Southfield.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: The minority is the African/American minority was either too high is that what I'm hearing? What do we need to tweet on so I know which way I'm going?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I think the Thematic dots would be helpful for African/American population.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: The neighborhoods would help me I know you know the neighborhoods Commissioner Curry and it's mostly for me and I do recognize that the District 8 right now is I believe an LGBTQ District community of interest that includes Palmer Park if I'm not mistaken, that is by, again, I want the neighborhoods Palmer Park, Hazel Park, Ferndale, Royal Oak, and Oak Park. But we couldn't get it completely in there so if we take apart or moving between 18 and 8, I just wanted to acknowledge that is a community of interest there in 8.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think I said palmer work but I think it's called palmer Woods.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Palmer Park is in Ipsi too.
It's okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.

>> MR. MORGAN: This is District 18 if you want, I can show more About Street names if you need them.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Street names and the dots.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay, I'm not sure the theme is not showing up at the moment.

Let me try to make an adjustment.

This is the theme based on African/American voting age population.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: What is that area under?

>> MR. MORGAN: This shows the thematic dots and the numbers, just the population.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: And we need to reduce that population by how much? It's over.

>> MR. MORGAN: Current population of District 18 is 76.7% African/American voting age population.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think our goal Commissioner Curry is to reduce it.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: 40, 45.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Correct, yep.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, then we need to try to give some of that possibly to Ferndale from what I can see.

>> MR. MORGAN: You're talking about possibly putting some of the African/American population from Detroit into the Ferndale District.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Possibly because they are only stepping foots away.

>> MR. MORGAN: This version, that's District 8.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Uh-huh and Hazel Park is quite a ways from all of that.

They are like really closer to 9, 10-Mile road or something.

Hazel Park is really not that affiliated or contiguous with 7-Mile, I can't see your words now, but Oak Park and Royal Oak and all that, Hazel Park is not contiguous with it that much.

Now, I am you all can see this map like I can.

So I'm you know either way we go with this h we are going to have to move something if we are over.

And what is in 8?

>> MR. MORGAN: Hazel Park, Ferndale then it comes down to Highland Park.

It's this area here.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Hazel Park is that I do not put Hazel Park with either Highland Park or Ferndale for some reason.

But I see it on the map.

But there's not a lot of contiguous at that, with that at all.

Even with the bell, what is that? The minority that's there in Highland Park? The Bangladesh.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Bangla Town is that what you mean?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I'm not even familiar with them being in Hazel Park and when they came to our open meetings, they did not even mention Hazel Park that much.

They wanted to stay more with Highland Park.

The northern part of 8 mile and lets me see what else and Hamtramck.

So but this is all the Black community, right?

>> MR. MORGAN: The dots show the theme for the Black community here and it's very strong in this part of Detroit, which is right along Southfield.

Right here.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: So some of Ferndale.

>> MR. MORGAN: Into the Ferndale District.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yeah.

>> MR. MORGAN: This is 7-Mile road here.

This is 8 mile.

And then I'm not sure what the cross streets are here.

There is so much information on the screen.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Let's go what with 1600, 607 and 1397.

>> MR. MORGAN: Some of these here and put them into 8.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Now this is not written in stone, Commissioners.

So if you all but it's just from what I know about it.

I didn't know where else to go but there.

>> MR. MORGAN: This is the square here between 7-Mile and 8 mile and I put that into 8 so that takes it looks like it took about 8,000 or 7,000 people from District 18 to District 8.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay, and so we need to get rid of about how many more, unpack how many more? About 15,000 or 20,000? No? So that is Oak Park.

>> MR. MORGAN: This is the portion I took out of 18 and put into 8.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Can we kind of take 8, 27, 1988 and 1246 into possibly Royal Oak just to see what it looks like because it's over packed.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Sorry to interrupt but I'm going to ask MC Rothhorn to facilitate for me this discussion.

Thank you, Commissioner Rothhorn.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: You're welcome.

Keep going Commissioner Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay just want to John see how it looks if we at 827, 1988 and 1916 to royal okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: North of 7-Mile so it's west instead of south.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Right up in there.

>> MR. MORGAN: District 18 is 13,000 under population and then it's 74% African/American voting age but you took out a lot of African/American population at this point.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think one of the strategies here Juanita may be to under populate this is one of the things Mr. Adelson did.

And I think if it's intentional and if we can figure out how to balance it with an overpopulated District which maybe.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: My strategy.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: That is your strategy.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I done see any things on it.

>> MR. MORGAN: 8 is again you are just taking population out of 18 so you have taken 12000 about out of 18 and put it into 8 so now 8 is too much, 18 has too little and I think you were contemplating taking a different area into 18 instead of this strong African/American area you might take a different area.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: 1298, 1266 and 948 let's see what that looks like for 8, to 8.

And it.

>> MR. MORGAN: 1266 down here is what you are taking into 8.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: What is the name on 8 I can't see it on mine.

>> MR. MORGAN: 8 has Ferndale and a portion of Detroit down to Highland Park.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay and what is the minority voting rights population?

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay so now District 18 is 18,000 under populated, District 8 is 15,000 overpopulated.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: So we can't go there.

Only place I see to go is either Ferndale or Commissioners what do you guys think?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I'm looking at this makes sense you are staying around 7-Mile and not going too far south and 6 mile and McNichols but what I'm looking at is the adjustments that you've made into 18 to see if we reduced the Black voting age population to any degree and it's been somewhat but it's still in the 70s.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Let's take there are some Black minority in Ferndale that would kind of equal out if we put a few more in that area you think?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Well what I'm looking at is because we've under populated 18, right, so we have taken away the Black population now add a white population in order to significantly reduce it and it looks like based on the theme that we are seeing looks like it needs to be north to Berkeley and I don't know what you think about as far as Berkeley being able to fit with this District and I think that is part of what we are struggling with.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Can you put Hazel Park with part of Ferndale?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Can you repeat the question please Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Can we put some of Hazel Park and Ferndale or some of Ferndale in Hazel Park? If we could follow that 2213 blue line that is kind of over there if we can mix them to together.

I'm not sure.

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

If you stay in Detroit on Royal Oak area, do you think there is a significant white population that will help balance.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Ferndale is pretty and I think it's more white Ferndale so if we add some Black or minority there, that would probably kind of equal it out some.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: What about the pleasant ridge area like is that part of Ferndale or not part of Ferndale?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: No, it's kind of in their own.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Do you want to try that and see how it affects the numbers?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Juanita, we can't hear you and it looks like you are frozen.

Okay we lost her.

There she is.

Commissioner Curry? We couldn't hear you for a minute.

It looks like you are on mute.

You are still on mute Commissioner Curry and we still can't hear you.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I was saying that I was addressing that to Bruce Adelson.

Mr. Adelson, I was trying to think and I know pleasant ridge is white minority and I think they kind of want to stay like that but, maybe we can move some of Royal Oak.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: So I'm hearing you Commissioner Curry you're talking about yeah where a Black and white balance may not be helpful for the whole community, we have racially polarized voting in the state and recognize there are people that don't want to be together.

And that's kind of what I'm hearing is that pretty accurate?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: And I'm just thinking in pleasant ridge because I don't see that mixture there at all there hardly but I know there is probably a few minority people that are there.

In fact, I have seen one or two but it's so less that I mean it's like a little place that we leave people alone and let them do their thing there and nobody tries to move in that community or what but we are trying to depopulize in Detroit by moving them around.

Do you guys got any suggestions?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: My one suggestion with pleasant ridge if you don't like that one.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Really okay let's try it and see.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think it might not be a good fit with the rest of the District of 18.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I don't think it would be a good fit.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: You don't think it's a good fit.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Let's go to the west of Oak Park.

What is there?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Into District 21?

>> MR. MORGAN: So that is Southfield so west of Oak Park is Southfield right here. Is Oak Park split is that what I'm seeing here?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: It sure looks like it.

Is that what other people are seeing too?

>> MR. MORGAN: Boundary with Southfield maybe as far as that.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay it looks like we may have lost Commissioner Curry she may be experiencing some Internet issues.

How are people feeling? Should we take a five-minute break? It's 20 minutes to lunch so maybe that is not a good idea or do we want to or we could okay but I'm just thinking about it's Commissioner Curry's turn she is experiencing audio difficulties do we want to break for lunch and return early and allow Commissioner Curry to return? Shall we try that? Wait a minute, Commissioner Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Is that even something we can do since isn't it a separate meeting that was created at 1:00?

>> MR. MORGAN: It is a separate meeting.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: It's not separate until 5:00.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay so.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: MC I'm back.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Curry so I think you were sort of the last we heard you were considering taking pieces of District 21 and the west of Oak Park that was the last we heard and didn't hear anything from that.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I don't see 21 on my screen.

Right there.

Oh, I see it, okay, so can I see John can I see the population dots?

>> MR. MORGAN: Again I will give you a reference the larger the area the higher the African/American population.

And I'll just click on one as an example.

So this one it says 2800, 47 is 94% African/American and this smaller dot over here which is in District 18 is 56%.

So that just gives you an idea of the size differences so this one again 94 and this one 56.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Let's go up towards past Oak Park north.

>> MR. MORGAN: And if there is no dot on it means the African/American population is less than 10% so any area up here in Berkeley is less than 10% African/American.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY:

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: You are hesitating what are you thinking about Commissioner Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Well we let Berkeley do their own thing but we need to depopulate some of the area in 18 and so we need to move some things around. Maybe if we.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Go ahead Commissioner.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Curry I'm welcoming your thought on that MC maybe if we can move into that area.

>> MR. MORGAN: Yeah, the population for Berkeley for reference is 15,200 and that is pretty close to what you're looking at needing for 18.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay let's try that and see. Because we got to go somewhere to and that is west of Southfield. What were you going to say MC?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Going to watch the numbers for the non-Hispanic Black voting age population so we reduced it by 13% and I know you think what I heard your thoughts it's got a good fit with the rest of the District.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Close enough for the area where Berkeley is it may be okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Mr. Adelson is asking us to experiment and don't want to sacrifice people's lives in the way they want their districts drawn but we do need to try it.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: That is the only way to go is up north so thank you Curry I shop and go through Berkeley and I know I'm just one person but I'm sure a lot of people go through Berkeley. It's not something you do every day like run to River Rouge or Ecorse or Lincoln or Allen Park. And I do go through Berkeley. And I'm sure other people do, too.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We are all set so do you want to try to like so it looks kind of funny with that western edge of District 128 and eastern of 21 and a jog there.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Let's try to fix that. What do we need there John?

>> MR. MORGAN: The population of District 18 is within the deviation so it's a little bit under it's 2900 under and I think what Commissioner Rothorn was saying is maybe take in a small part of population somewhere else.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yeah, can we take it from a little bit of Southfield?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Curry we may keep shifting things. That is some of the talk in the on the table here in the room so we may just be able to just keep it for where it is right now.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Okay that's fine. I won't make any comments.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We do have district 8 and District 21 that need to be adjusted because of this.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I'm going to give that to somebody else the challenge is we have to go through 18.

The two districts, I guess we could so thank you John for helping us we could go through 23 or we could go okay, so it's not just one way so thank you for pointing that out Mr. Morgan.

At this point Commissioner Curry you finished your turn.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: I'm going to stop right there and you know we probably have to do something else but I'm going to leave it right there for now.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay thanks Commissioner Curry.

I want to acknowledge it's deliberately under populated to try to address that the voting rights analysis so we are still higher at 61% voting age non-Hispanic Black age voting population and it's lower than I think 73 or is it 76 or is it 76% so you reduced it significantly.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: And Mr. Morgan will bring it up for us so that is a significant shift thank you Commissioner Curry do you have rationale and Commissioners how are we feeling? Do we want to try to take an early lunch or do we want to try to move on to the next one? I'm seeing shaking heads.

You ready to go one more Rhonda? You are ready to take a break?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No I think we should keep going.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Let's keep going.

And Commissioner Eid is up next, I believe, okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Take it away Mr.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Eid let's continue to try to fix what this map is.

I just want to be clear what we are looking at though are the changes that Commissioner Szetela had already put on, right? Okay.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, Commissioner Curry started with that.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We got the last District down from over 75% to about 60% so that is a lot better.

Not perfect but headed in the right direction.

But inadvertently or I guess overtly in this case now District 8 is 15,000 below.

So we have to figure out a way to fix that.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: And District 21.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: And District 21 so let's look at 21.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think what Mr. Morgan was pointing out District 23 touches both of those districts so that may be a route or a path to adjust the population.

>> MR. MORGAN: And again just to clarify you know it's a population circle right now you have one that is over and one that is under and you have to pass between the two and like you were saying you could go through District 18 or you could go around District 18.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: What is the Black VAP on 21 currently? Still 64 so it's still high, higher than I think we would like it to be.

Is that the highest one currently?

>> MR. MORGAN: Taking Berkeley out that did increase it, so I can give you a quick snapshot from the spreadsheet to see what it was.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I don't know.

I just want to know is currently 21 as it's configured is that the highest percentage of all of these districts in Metro Detroit?

>> MR. MORGAN: It's an incomplete District at this point.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Right I understand that.

>> MR. MORGAN: It does not seem to be 6 and 21 as currently drawn.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Let's actually go to six then.

And six is at 64% right now.

>> MR. MORGAN: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay, the southern parts of six that is closer to downtown Detroit, let's unassign those areas for now.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay so do you want to use 94 south of 94 this Section this Section?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: You could use the neighborhood layer.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes, let's pull that up.

That is a great idea MC.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I do believe if you're trying to you know because the white population is in four so you are welcome to do as you are suggesting and you may consider trying to do a direct.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We can do that and it might be easier so let's add to district four, let's do six because it has the higher number currently and add Grosse Pointe Shores and Grosse Pointe Woods to 6.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: That took the number down to about 53% instead of being 64%.

Now we are under population by 18,000 on four.

For District Four let's bring in more of the -- that area, those neighborhoods that you're hovering over now in order to increase the population number until we hit the goal.

>> COMMISSIONER EID:

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: If I'm not mistaken, we have a couple COIs around Chandler Park area that may I think this was something that was requested.

Again, there are so many competing CO.

Its I think the St. Clair shores was a more popular COI to be certain but there is a COI I do believe around the Chandler Park area we could...it might help if you want to pull up a COI.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Do you know which COI it is specifically?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I'll see if I can find it.

>> MR. MORGAN: Commissioner Eid do you want me to assign it to see the population?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> MR. MORGAN: I will do it in two phases, this part first.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: As we are trying to do this, I still think we should try and keep the communities of interest together.

And we have heard so much about the points being together.

I hate to split them up.

Is it a way, is there a way to keep them together?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: You know I'm going to be honest I agree with you.

And I hate to split them up but I think for this house map I don't see another way to do it because that is where the white population is around Detroit.

We've already covered you know the other areas like Livonia for example.

And Dearborn as well, which was split is up the other day.

So I mean, I'd be welcome to any advice from anybody to figure out a way to not split it up but I think right now what we've heard is this map is currently not compliant and we need to get it to be compliant.

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Thanks MC.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So this what I'm looking at now is a community of interest map that goes south of Grosse Pointe Farms.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark did you have a comment?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: The only comment I had is well relative I guess to community of interest.

But that Section of Detroit at the public hearings they did not want to be connected with Grosse Pointe because they feel that all the attention goes to the Grosse Pointe area and not them.

And so that was a significant comment I got out of that community.

I know we are in a tough position to get this thing fixed.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Right I think what we can do Commissioners I just want to acknowledge that what I heard, and I believe it's true right from Mr. Adelson the point is to try to experiment.

We can try recognizing that we don't like this and recognize that we will prioritize.

I mean what we do is we risk running against like we have to like our maps may be challenged because they are not VRA compliant so what we do is risk losing our maps, right, that we create maps that we believe comply with COIs but then don't comply with

the first criteria and I think again I don't believe that we have to choose but we have to justify and recognize the cost if you will of our choice.

That's I think what we are doing here because Mr. As Commissioner Eid is doing what we are doing is we are trying it, we recognize that it's, yeah, it's painful and we have to try it because we do want to get these maps done the right way the first time and legally.

Was there Commissioner Witjes, please?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: But according to what you said earlier they are VRA compliant because you said one is VRA compliant and one is more VRA compliant so which is it? Because I don't know.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: General Counsel please.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: The data for number four or actually the District 18 is the one that I will use as the example that had 76.72% Black VAP would be considered a packed District so what we were trying to do is utilizing the racial bloc voting, which provided the Commission with the percentages by which the minority voting population would have the opportunity to elect their candidates of choice, you don't and in Detroit the current maps the analysis showed that the districts were packed up to you know 70%, 90%, some of the districts.

Which is shocking particularly when you get the RBV analysis that says the 35% or could elect a candidate of choice.

So I hope that was helpful in what the goal is.

So and I know a lot of our public commenters and in the portal, I've seen the maintaining the majority minority districts that the City currently has and again Dr. Handley's racial bloc voting analysis demonstrated that they are not necessarily that the ability to elect, the opportunity to elect can be preserved without having those types of districts.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: So for the moment Commissioner Eid take us into lunch please.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I will just continue to finish fixing this.

Those three neighborhoods above Grosse Pointe, yes, those can you take those and put them into District 4?

>> MR. MORGAN: That took too much.

Do you want me to just do one of those three?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: No assign all of it, all of those three neighborhoods then we will take off from elsewhere.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: If I'm not mistaken, they are a community of interest themselves and do a line with the points.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: At least with Grosse Pointe Farms which is included in there, that is in the map that you just showed.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: For the reference of the public I'm going to share the map that Commissioners Eid and Rothhorn are referring to on the Zoom meeting, thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We are over 14,000 people and 60% BVAP so we are going to take off the areas that are closest to downtown Detroit so ap let's start where four starts right in the heart of the City.

And let's unassign those for now.

We can figure out where we are going to reassign that population after lunch.

>> MR. MORGAN: So to clarify give me direction please on which neighborhoods specifically.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So those go ahead MC.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Eid I'm thinking because you're working with 6 and 4 like it's easier, I just want to acknowledge that if you it may look funny but it's just balancing between 6 and 4 might allow us to just have two districts that we are playing with yeah to go into the corner I know it will look neater and I trust your instincts here because you may know exactly where one and ten need to be balanced, right? So if you recognize that you know how it can help balance out absolutely go there but I was thinking that, yeah, if you stay up where you were with six that it may and just move around less.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I appreciate your faith in me and thought six was okay on population but no you are right we took some out of six so let's go back and reexamine the six and four.

So 6 needs 11,000 people and 4 is over 14,000 people.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: What I don't want to see happen is to move north on the shoreline so everything we have done from St. Clair shores up north towards mount Clemens I want to keep intact and deal with it down on closer to Detroit.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I think the only thing to do here is to take that neighborhood that is in the corner that is like in the corner between 6 and 4 the neighborhood that kind of looks like a triangle here.

If we add that to 6.

So let's Zoom in, okay, those five voting precincts right over there.

And there is also a little square that I'm looking at that also needs to be put into six.

Yep, that area as well.

And do you see that little square that is in between 833 and yes exactly let's put that into 6 too.

I think we did too much there.

Something else got added.

>> 816.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Take 67 out.

>> MR. MORGAN: Did you want to move into in next neighborhood anyway or not? Because they are still off on population.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes, I did want to do that.

It looks like that neighborhood and that little square I was speaking of are in the same precinct.

Okay four is still over population a little bit and six is still under population.

>> MR. MORGAN: Did you want me to continue with the neighborhood or?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Let's take the rest of the neighborhood.

It would be about 1800 or close to it.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Take the remainder of the neighborhood the difference between 4 and 6 right now looks to be about 3% so let's try to get those numbers closer to that.

Yeah, let's take that strip as well.

Put it into six.

>> MR. MORGAN: I'm not sure if the voting precinct crosses the neighborhood boundary.

It might.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We can go in the blocks, I would be okay with that.

I'd rather maintain the neighborhood than the voting precinct.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: The irony of what you are doing is these top three neighborhoods do associate with the points so why not go just west of the them into Chandler Park area in terms of assigning and removing population from 4.

That's what I'm saying.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I would be open to looking at that it would just kind of make an almost a.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: If you are thinking about the shape that is where I think we all recognize that shapes are going to be weird at this point.

But we are trying to preserve communities of interest as we do this.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I do like that idea better than taking these three neighborhoods out of four.

>> MR. MORGAN: So delay the order to take the rest of the neighborhood? Think on it? Take a break and think about it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I suggest we take a break guys because I know we will have people here at 1:00 so let's not cut into lunch because I know a lot of people are going out.

So it's currently 12:07 without objection we will recess for lunch and we will return at 1:07 p.m.

Hearing no objections let's take a recess, thank you.

[Lunch Recess]

>> CHAIR SZETELA: As Chair of the Commission I call this meeting of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission back to order at 1:09 p.m.

Will the secretary please call the roll?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely.

Commissioners, please say present when I call your name. If you are attending the meeting remotely, please Disclose during roll call you are attending remotely and physically where you are attending from.

We will start with Doug Clark.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Present.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Present.

>> 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.

>> 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: 11 Commissioners are present.

And there is a quorum.

>> VICE CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you. Did Commissioner Curry indicate where she is attending remotely from.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Attending remotely from Detroit, Michigan.

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: At this point we will continue with our mapping we left off with Commissioner Eid once again I'm going to ask Vice Chair Rothhorn to facilitate the discussion.

Thank you very much everyone.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Per our agenda are we supposed to be doing public comment now?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Do you know what we are supposed to do public comment thank you very much for that reminder, Commissioner Lange.

Are we going to do it?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: 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.

I apologize individuals who signed up and indicated they would like to provide in person commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so.

Please step to the 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.

>> Good afternoon.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Good afternoon.

>> Commissioner staff my name is Dave D a professor of political science at Oakland University also the director of the center for civic engagement it's my pleasure to welcome you to Oakland University campus.

One of the University's goals is in the area of community engagement.

Where we look to engage with our surrounding communities off campus.

This is an opportunity for us to do that, to welcome you to have you here to do your important work.

As one of the goals of the center for civic engagement is to be a convener of conversations about issues of public importance and this is certainly one of those issues.

So it's my pleasure to welcome you thank you for being here.

And it's a pleasure to have you thanks.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: It's a pleasure to be here thanks very much for addressing the Commission.

Number two.

>> Good afternoon, Commission.

Thanks for all the hard work you have been putting in.

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This morning you were discussing the number of draft maps that you will be submitting to the public soon.

Several collaborative ones and several solo maps possibly.

My question is related to that.

If a citizen drawn map is submitted to the Commission that better fulfills the constitutional requirements, will you consider using that as a basis for your final map? I haven't heard any discussion about that.

If so, how will you know a better map when you see it? I hope you will please let the public know your answer to these questions.

At the time you publish your draft maps.

I believe that it will help the public to know how to participate in the draft review process.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line is number three.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Apologies for the interruption I just wanted to know that Commissioner Wagner is present.

>> Oakland County executive Dave C and appreciate giving me to talk about the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission and voters spoke in 2018 and wanted fair and Congressional districts drawn by a bipartisan and Independent Redistricting Commission.

So I applaud all of you for taking on this enormous and difficult task I do.

As Oakland County executive I want to tell you about the County I represent.

With more than 1.2 million people larger than nine states by the way we grew by 6% in the 2020 census.

And remain the second largest County in Michigan.

Oakland County is an economic force and collective live contributes 20% of the state's GDP.

The universities and hospital systems, corporate headquarters and manufacturers and as a County Government our health department and school District and this University are core to the Oakland County community.

And it is vital that we have full and fair representation.

That means we need to have state and Federal legislative districts rooted right here in Oakland County.

We need our representatives to understand the needs of our communities, of our residents and our businesses.

Frankly I'm concerned that the latest maps I've seen appear to be diluting Oakland County's voice with several state legislative districts split between multiple surrounding Counties.

Now I'm not saying that we can't be combined with residents from other cones but those District lines need to be carefully drawn and created for districts that are rooted here.

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Oakland County's representation in Lansing could conceivably go from 14 members of the house and 5 Senators we have currently serving in Lansing to 10 in the house and 2 Senators with the current maps.

The proposed Congressional map which I know is still work in progress dissects Oakland County even further without a single District that is solely rooted in Oakland County.

There is a good possibility that the current Oakland County residents representing us in Washington could be whittled down to 0.

This would represent a tremendous loss of influence in the capitols for an economy that is growing and I would urge you to amend the current drafts of the map for Oakland County because we all deserve districts that would be fair in rents our residents thank you so much

>>VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line is number four.

>> Hello, my name is Janet Prange, and over the years I voted republican, democrat independent and third-party.

In 2016 I joined Voters Not Politicians and for the first time in my life worked hundreds of hours writing postcards collecting petition signatures and canvassing to get prop two passed which it did with over 60% of the vote.

Fair, it's a very important word to all of us.

it's why Voters Not Politicians was started.

It was the intent of prop two.

It's what most people want in life a fair shot.

It's what kids clammer for it's what Michigan citizens demand from this commission fair Districts that reflect the population of Michigan.

Presently Michigan Senate is 16 democrats 20 republicans and two vacancies.

Which is an 8% advantage to republicans.

The State House is 52 democrats 58 republicans which is almost 9% advantage to republicans.

This is what a rigged election looks like.

There should be no advantage.

0 advantage, 0 partisan advantage.

Even more evenly divided districts will result in better representation, higher voter engagement and let's extreme candidates we need to unpack cities and Counties so that everyone's vote has equal weight.

Recent statewide elections have resulted in a Governor two U.S. Senators Secretary of State and Attorney General all democrats.

Since 1992 democrats have controlled the house only 7 out of 30 years and have never controlled the State Senate.

Or elected a republican U.S. Senator.

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We voted for republican president only once in 32 years.

Your job is extremely important.

And will affect the next decade of elections.

The Michigan Constitution states that districts shall not provide a disproportionate advantage to any political party.

Your current maps I feel fail this Constitutional test.

Thank you for your time and I do appreciate all your hard work.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.

Next in line to address the Commission is number five.

>> Commissioners thank you for your time today and for the hard work you're doing.

My name is Steve Prang I'm a lifelong resident of Michigan along with thousands of other volunteers collected over 3840,000 signatures to amend the state Constitution to create an Independent Commission to draw more fair voting District boundaries.

Proposal two passed in 2018 and 61% landslide in spite of legal challenges to prop two here we are today.

I know you have 7 criteria you must follow no advantage to political parties.

Studies have been done to create near 0 political bias districts that can be done.

No District should offer a candidate of any party a safe seat.

Every candidate should have to earn their seat every term by upholding the Constitution and addressing the needs of their constituents.

There should be no packing or cracking based on political party, there should also be no packing or cracking of minorities in accordance with the Voting Rights Act.

Additional benefit of Districts that don't favor political party we will have fewer or extreme fringe candidates and encourage different parties to work together.

This is the District I live in.

District 11.

I know that following all 7 criteria you're not going to have nice, square rectangles for all the districts.

But when this was drawn in 2011, I think it was drawn to favor one party over another.

Thousands of people spent tens of thousands of hours to get us to where we are add today.

The people of Michigan are looking to achieve our goal of fair voting District boundaries.

Please follow the law and make sure that there are no advantages to political parties in the new districts.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line is number 6, please.

>> My name is Stephanie and I have never spoken in public like this before.

I'm speaking for my children and my grandchildren.

First, I want to say thank you to each of you.

This is difficult work.

It's technical.

It's complicated and there are challenges.

As citizens many of us have tried our best to offer input to protect our interest.

Districting was men to be a miniature of our people, our people here in the state at large.

Your good intentions, your time and your effort will not automatically lead to fair maps.

Proposal 1820 excuse me 182 which I voted for and which was approved by our citizens Reeves with redistricting criteria shall include districts of equal population.

Reflecting Michigan's diverse population and communities of interest.

Districts shall not provide disproportionate advantage to political parties or candidates.

At the end of today, and at the end of your days let us celebrate your work. And, as I said when I began, thank you to each of you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line is number six and as you begin speaking, please acknowledge that the microphone is best we are best you're best heard with about 8" between your mouth and the microphone, please.

So again number six.

>> I'm not seeing any movement in the room.

Number six? Are we up to number 7? Again please about 8" between your mouth and the microphone thank you.

>> Good afternoon, Commissioners.

I appreciate this opportunity to address the group.

My name is Brian D.

I am a Rochester Hills resident have been for more than 30 years.

I'm retired manager from Beaumont Health. We certainly appreciate all the hard work the Commission has been doing in this or arduous task.

I think it's agreed that a lot of people feel the current maps need additional work to pass the Constitution test and others addressing the need for the Commission to measure partisan fairness and make adjustments that are necessary to minimize political bias in those maps.

What I'd like to touch on very quickly is issues specifically to Rochester and Rochester Hills.

What we can call the M59 corridor.

It's important that any legislative Districts that are created keep these two cities together.

Rochester and Rochester Hills have long been effectively one community with many common interests.

They share resources like the library and the school District and more and also have many shared community groups like the Rochester Avon historical society, the center for the arts, neighborhood house and many more.

Because of all these common interests it's very, very important that the cities of Rochester and Rochester Hills remain together in any District maps that are created.

Thank you very much.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line to speak the number eight.

>> Good afternoon.

My name is David.

For those who remember these words I'm not now nor have I ever been a card carrying member of any political party.

Before I voted for proposal two, I did read those clear, concise, easy to apply words that are your responsibility and I thank you for undertaking that work.

I have three points I'd like to address to you today.

First, Oakland County is a thing.

To put what executive Coulter said differently Oakland County really is a community. It's a place with interests that are consistent with Oakland County and a lot of people have worked for a lot of decades to make it that way.

I would urge you to find ways to give Oakland County districts that as he said are centered into it or that are based in Oakland County.

Second, I'd like to suggest that the Woodward corridor Birmingham Royal Oak Clawson maybe the areas around that are a community that lives, works, plays, eats, drinks together and is an area that should be considered as a unit to the extent that that is at all possible in drawing maps.

It is a very natural community of interest.

Third, I urge you to focus as you work through the next drafts on questions of partisan fairness and do your very best to achieve that objective.

Thank you very much for your efforts on this task and for your consideration of these comments.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line to speak is number nine.

>> Hi, my name is Lori Lacy and live in Huntington Woods in Oakland County first I want to recognize the hard work you all are doing from my looking into it a little bit it's incredible what you guys are having to do.

Thank you.

I came today to ask that you pay particular attention to nonpartisan fairness.

A relatively objective measure as you draw our maps.

I know there are maps that have been submitted that have almost 0 partisan bias.

Per the Constitution on partisan maps are prioritized and geographical and political boundaries and compactness of districts.

I know that funny shapes are the hallmarks of gerrymandered districts but funny shapes are okay if they are necessary to making a map that fairly represents Michigan voters.

I ask that you pay attention to nonpartisan fairness as you are drawing or redrawing each District rather than checking only when you are done.

I'm not a map drawer but I'm a knitter and I count my stitches and rows and measure lengths and widths as I go rather than hope I will complete the sweater or sock and it will fit.

Drying an eye with nonpartisan fairness as you go is the meth most likely to lead to fairness without the need to unravel and undo at the end of the process.

I believe that each of you has the best of intentions.

But good intentions will not automatically lead to fair maps.

As a voter I will feel better about the outcome of elections going forward even if my candidate does not win.

If I know that we have districts that reflect the balance of voters in the state.

Anything less will leave voters to feel frustrated and cheated.

Thank you again I know your work is hard.

You have my gratitude as you continue your work to produce maps that fairly reflect the diversity of Michigan voters.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you and thank you for that metaphor.

Next in line is number ten.

>> Good afternoon.

Can everyone hear me clear?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: You are a little bit too far away.

Come a little bit closer about 8" thank you.

>> My name is joy and I'm a UAW.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: A little bit closer.

>> Is this better.

My name is joy Cleary as a UAW representative from region one.

I'm part of the community action program.

And I would like to just address the Commission asking that you can if you guys can come together as of course with the united auto workers and unity is everything so if we can come together and try and as everyone else has addressed be as fair as possible.

Covering just I know we are in Oakland County as well but as you go over all of the different districts it will make it even all across the board.

Partisan fairness is everything and we pretty much ask that you guys try and involve the community as well to try and not be so partisan with both parties so we can even out and it be fair for everyone.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

I believe we are to number 11.

>> Hello how is everybody doing?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you we are doing well.

>> I have a very simple request.

Precinct 3 and 5 in Oxford Township is currently in District 30, talking House District so if you want to follow along bring up the House District map, precinct 3 and 5 is currently in District 30.

The rest of Oxford Township and Addison Township is in 47.

Our community of interest in Oxford I'm from Oxford my name is Josh.

I'm an autism clinician full time.

My wife and I both practice.

And we want our community to stay localized and focused, Oxford schools spans across Oxford Township into Addison Township and we can easily keep that there if we move precinct three and five from 30 as it was drafted into District 47.

And that is my P spiel.

Thank you for your time.

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

Next in line to speak is number 12, please.

>> Good afternoon my name is Bruce I live in Rochester Hills.

I think there is an odd carpenter saying measure twice cut once so I hope that is what you are able to accomplish because the reason, we are having this whole process we ended up with maps that are fair.

I think that is the keyword we have been hearing here to have fair maps as far as partisan considerations go.

I was a Court reporter and when I was Court reporting both sides would hire us to make a record of the proceeding and if there was a hint of partiality I would be out of a job because if I changed one yes to a no or no to a yes because maybe someone, I had one client in the room, I would not be hired again.

I hope you are all being paid here today.

I hope you will make sure that whatever we end up with is fair because the maps I've seen so far that have been proposed are not fair.

So that's all I really came here to say is that the end product needs to be fair for all the residents of the State of Michigan.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Were you number 12? Thank you.

So number 13.

>> My name is ginger I'm a Rochester resident.

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I just want to add my support to what Brian D requested.

That you consider Rochester and Rochester Hills as one community.

I would add that a good part of Oakland Township also operates within our community library and OTC and so forth.

So I'm just saying that those are considerations I'd like you to keep in mind.

And thank you all so for your hard work.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number 14.

>> I don't see any movement for 14.

Oh, thank you.

>> Hi, I'm Brian I'm a political science student here at Oakland University.

And I live in Bloomfield technically Bloomfield Township which is split in the current map from Bloomfield Hills.

Even in District 30 and 22.

And I'm looking at it right now in 30.

Bloomfield is much different, Bloomfield Hills is much different from the top of the District of 30.

And so I would want that 30 be lower south like southern, more southern and more into Bloomfield Township.

And lastly into Lake Orion, thank you and thank you for all the work you're doing.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Number 15.

>> Good afternoon, everyone Gerald from Lake Orion Michigan and I appreciate your attentiveness to what is going on today.

I do see some of the Commissioners that are surfing the web and different things I would appreciate if you would watch what is going on.

Two things that I'd like to specifically talk about, one is dissecting specific communities. We've had in the past 30 mile differences in some communities, so if you need to necessarily break up a community or dissect it, I'd also have hesitancy in that and have the property we stand on right now is often been debated on whether it's Rochester or Auburn Hills.

So it's not out of the ordinary for this to happen.

School districts your house can be on one side of the road the street can actually separate a District.

Where kids would be living in a virtual address and go to collide schools so it's not out of the ordinary and ask you to follow the constitutional guidelines set forth to you.

We want free and fair elections and want an impartial state just like the board of Commissioners here.

You guys are impartial and we would like our State of Michigan to be the same way.

Thank you very much.

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

>> Number 16? Let's move on to 17.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I think that is it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Are we finished? We had 15 wonderful.

Now that we concluded in person we will move on 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 could 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 Karen Adams.

>> Thank you very much I'm Karen Adam and live in Commerce Township Oakland County I've been voting in every election since I've been 18 years old that is a lot of elections. I grew up in Michigan but lived in northern Nevada and Philadelphia and suburban Cincinnati but chose to move back to Michigan when we retired. I've seen differences in different states as far as elections goes. I've always volunteered in my community I was appointed to a planning Commission for nine years.

I've help seniors in high school register to vote in several school districts near me and very rewarding.

Elections and Government are important and have a responsibility to actively participate.

First and for most I'm concerned with fairness.

I believe fairness should be the overriding principle in drawing District lines.

I understand that this Commission must comply with the state Constitution and the Voting Rights Act.

And not to provide disproportionate advantage to any political party or favor or disfavor an incumbent elected official or candidate but it all should be the will of majority of voters, should be reflected in the seats one.

I believe that is the goal of prop two and getting rid of gerrymandering and it was the impetus for Michigan voters overwhelmingly casting the fair redistricting law.

I'm most concerned with packing and cracking packing is unfairly putting many people in the same community of interest into a single District in a way to waste large number of votes reducing the total number of Districts in which that community has influence and cracking is unfairly splitting up people of the same community of interest among several districts thereby preventing them from constituting majority in any single District.

I hope that the Commission does not take into consideration keeping incumbent districts I want partisan fairness and an even playing field.

I want voters to have a fair chance to elect the candidate of their choice.

I'm concerned that anti-gerrymandering has not been addressed in these maps.

It would seem to me to be the logical way to approach this or would be to start in the most populous area of the state, the southeast and work out.

Because of these districts in the populated areas are drawn fairly it follows that the rest of the map would be fair.

This is about voters and fairness.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line to speak is Edward.

>> Hello.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Hello.

>> Yes, I'm sorry, I'm new to this.

Yes, I don't want to go long.

My comments I guess I want to echo the previous comments about partisan, the partisan fairness and sort of us try to be sort of semi balanced or not lopsided districts as we've had for years.

I mean for a decades probably and then I guess I'd also throw in I do like your ideas of compactness and not splitting up Counties.

And cities.

I mean to me as a voter when I talk to voters, they invariably don't know what District they are in.

Don't know what Senate or the State House districts and the State Senate District.

They don't know what Congressional District they are in.

And I just was shocked.

So few people I am in Calhoun County and we bounced around a little bit.

Between the 7th and the 3rd and I was kind of shocked how few people how few voters knew they were not, they were in the third Congressional District and Justin Amash was their Congress person.

That was a couple elections ago.

But, yeah, and for I want to mention I'm glad we don't have any districts like Ohio districts and North Carolina districts which are like you know modern weird just totally implausible districts, at least we are how do you say it compact in that sense.

Thank you.

And thank you for your work.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Good to hear the laughter.

Next in line is number three.

>> Hello everyone, can you see me.

I'm from Dearborn.

I have reviewed all three maps and just I want to thank the Commission for keeping our communities in Dearborn, Dearborn Heights and Hamtramck together and I'm aware there is going to be more added to the map I just urge you to keep our communities together.

In addition, I ask that you add Dearborn, Dearborn Heights to your Congressional map and remove anything past 8 mile and to be frank the map looks funky and weird with the addition of City past 8 mile so I really urge you to keep door born Dearborn height and Hamtramck and Detroit together because they have the largest population in the state and it would but I deal if we had a Congressional District that includes them all.

I know communities have struggles with air pollution by AK Steel causing residents to develop cancer and asthma, repeated flooding due to the City's neglect for some areas with proper infrastructure and low income and working class residents, lack of language access, lack of healthcare. Fear of deportation because we have many undocumented residents. So I urge you all to keep this particular community of interest intact because it's vital for us to serve their needs.

We urge the Commission to not only divide these Muslim communities because splitting the communities would be unjust because we need to ensure we have the proper representation and the Federal and municipal services they need to keeping this community together will help us provide appropriate services and sincerely build power and agency through our communities thank you so much for your time and I really hope you consider keeping our Muslim communities together.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line is Dorothy Munson.

>> Can you hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Looks like you are speaking Dorothy but we can't hear you.

>> Just a moment.

Okay I'll come back to it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: We can hear you

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>> You can hear me great thank you I'm Dorothy Munson and I represent proactive a nonpartisan nonprofit that focuses on voting rights for underserved people I'm a lifelong resident of Grand Rapids.

Our comments are directed to Congressional District Four on map four excuse me 9-20-21V as in Victor 3CD focusing on Kent County.

It would be helpful to look at Kent County as the base for the District with the western Townships of Jamestown, Georgetown and Talmadge that are currently included.

We suggest you add the heavily populated western Allendale Township that borders I-96 from Metro Grand Rapids westward.

The similarities of culture and communities of interest are reasonably consistent.

This would encompass Grand Valley State University and Allendale which has extensive campuses in downtown Grand Rapids.

This would complement the other ten smaller college campuses in the Metro area.

This westward shift in population would facilitate moving the six cube Ionia primarily agricultural Townships on the eastern areas of District 4 into a District that has commonality with them.

These Townships are Orleans, Otisco, Keen, Boston, Berlin and Odessa.

We would like to express our pride in the work and professionalism the Commission has consistently demonstrated.

Thank you so very much.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line is James Gallant.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Apologies Mr. Vice Chair, I think it's a different person for number five, Ethan.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Ethan, I apologize, you are next in line.

>> Hello.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Hello.

>> Good afternoon.

My name is Ethan.

I'm a lifelong Michigander and a resident of Canton.

First and Foremost I want to thank you all for the work you're doing to draw our legislative maps.

I appreciate that the Commission has been posting all of its work and allowing everyday citizens to weigh in on the process, the process that is historically happened by politicians behind closed doors.

With that being said I've been following work of the Commission and I've become about partisan fairness with the districts that have been drawn do so far particularly in the State House the current map includes 66 Districts that went for Trump in 2016 compared to Clinton's 44.

Despite Trump winning 10704 votes.

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Looking at 2020 election we see Trump would have still carried 58 of the State House districts under the current draft of the map compared to Biden 52 even though Biden won State of Michigan.

One criteria spelled out is districts shall not have a disproportionate advantage to anyone political party.

The State House map as currently drawn clearly favors one party disproportionately. I ask the Commission to consider this criteria and make changes that would remove all partisan bias.

Thanks so much.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you so much for addressing the Commission. Next in line is James Gallant.

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

I'd like to speak to you today about the amendment to your rules of procedure there on the agenda for today. And I was wondering why they were not posts to the public. You posted instead a resolution as if it's a done deal and you are just going to rubber stamp a resolution and not -- and get the input.

I'll ask you to postpone that decision. And ask the input of the prior speaker from the center for civic engagement to weigh in on this rules of procedure thing and how the Roberts rules works. And specifically the -- where you are trying to or where this idea for a motion to discuss, where that came from and whoever thought of that. Because that is what a motion does.

You motion, you second it, and you discuss it, then you vote.

So your motion to discuss is more sounds more like a, you know, trying to circumvent the rules so that you can do the bullying.

That's what happens.

This is the bullying. You load up on people and it's bullying. And you still don't have an immediately pending question.

I mean you will what? Motion, second to discuss and vote, yes, we are going to discuss. What are you going to discuss? I mean, it makes no sense.

So if you could just get an opinion or a registered parliamentarian or somebody. And please inform the members of the actual rules in the book that you're trying to circumvent. Because these all have corresponding rules in the book that members like Commissioner Curry doesn't even know that they exist.

And I think that's wrong.

That's just fundamentally wrong. And for, you know, everybody has a right to know what the rules are and to be explained to them and give informed consent.

So please do that.

And postpone. And but please discuss that link, the part about the motion to discuss and why that is, where that came from.

I mean, this was not even asked for.

The Commission never asked for the bylaw amendments.

It just kind of shows up that. See this is why the business is not coming from the Commission.

It's coming from the staff.

You never asked for it. See you should have made a motion today to amend.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Next in line is Anthony S.

>> Hello. Can you hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, we can.

>> All right, thank you Commissioner. Anthony S lifelong Wayne County resident.

Yeah, I guess I agree with Mr. Gallant about don't know what the rules of procedure are. I think it is vague as to you know which maps will be proposed and which ones got put on the website already.

That's just so I agree with him.

And then my comments on the mapping pertain to your Congressional map, you have primarily been working on one draft map of Congress.

Just for the whole time.

And I received quite a bit of negative comments about it so some adjustments have been made but still just this one primary draft for Congress.

And I was dismayed to see that yesterday the only adjustments were made to Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo areas before you wanted to send it off for analysis.

You know, I think there is still some issues with it.

But before I get to that I heard executive Dave C make a point there is no Congressional District entirely centered in Oakland County and maybe there won't even be a U.S. Congress person from Oakland well, no I don't know if he has been looking at the same drafts I have because the one draft you are working on puts District 3 in incumbent rep Lawrence seat so that is not really an issue in my view.

I'm more in favor of Commissioner Eid's proposed draft for the Congress map than your collaborative one.

And primarily for what how it treats Wayne County and the Down River areas. Part of Down River is with a District that includes Macomb County. The remainder of Down River is in a District which includes part of Jackson County in your Congressional map. I think that's going to have a really decentering, unfamiliar and uninterested effect on quality of representation that those communities will receive especially Allen Park, Melvindale, Lincoln Park, Ecorse and River Rouge. And that's for the U.S. Congress. So I'm anxious to so what proposals you all individually submit.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line is Karen S.

>> Can you hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, we can.

>> Thank you, first of all I'm Karen I'm a resident of Grand Rapids.
And I live in Kent County.
I want to first thank you for the very time consuming and tedious work you're doing.
And also for the transparency and having a voice in this process.
I really do appreciate that.
One of the things I have seen in the map, I'm supporting the comments also previously made by Dorothy Munson just a few minutes ago.
And this is addressing map 9-20-21V3CD.
For the third Congressional District.
One of the things I think is very important is keeping the Grand Rapids area the Metropolitan area as one contiguous District.
A single District and don't break up Grand Rapids.
Grand Rapids is the second largest City in Michigan.
Kent County is a very large County with over 600,000 voters.
And I realize we have to expand the District to make it a Congressional District.
But the current map is expanding it eastward into a very large farming area that has nothing in common with the Metropolitan area.
So for me to expand the District it makes much more sense to go westward into Jamestown Georgetown Allendale that has a more Metropolitan composition that looks more like the area itself.
And so if you are electing a Congressional person to represent the area it would be hard on the current map to represent a farming area and a Metropolitan area that have very diverse interests and demographics.
So I would say let's expand into the west side as opposed to the east side which makes much more sense from an economic community.
And a community of interest.
Especially given that Grand Rapids airport, it's a big Metropolitan growth area for us.
And so it just doesn't make sense to be lumped with the rural area thank you.
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you.
Next in line to address the Commission is Chris Andrews.
>> Can you hear me?
>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, we can.
>> Thank you.
Hi, I'm Chris Andrews from Haslett.
I was at the hospital last night awaiting surgery and I was thinking why won't the Commission embrace political fairness? Communities of interest are ranked higher than political fairness, three rather than four.
So perhaps they must be given a little more weight.
But communities of interest have become the enemy of fair elections and the will of the people. We have held hearings on communities of interest but not on fairness.

We assume that was a given.

Now at recent hearings hundreds of people are showing up to tell you that we need fair elections and to end the rigged system where one party wins majorities no matter what. We feel ignored. Is there not one Commissioner who will be the voice of fairness today?

Here are two things I think here are things you can do in the name of fairness. The SCHWARTZ-SHOWER bipartisan is fairer than anything you have drawn. And consider it as carefully as your own and in the State House you've created a disproportionate advantage in the Lansing area.

Put Delta Township and Grand Ledge in with the rest of Eaton County rather than packing democrats into Ingham County and turning purple Eaton County into a partisan lock.

You can do this by including southern Ingham County with the other Ingham County districts.

You've heard a lot of us talk about eliminating undue partisan advantage and we've heard almost nothing from you about whether that is something you intend to do.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line to speak is Emily Clancy.

>> Hello.

Hopefully everyone can hear me.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, we can hear you.

>> Awesome.

My name is Emily Clancy. And I live in Grand Mont one in Detroit. Currently my husband and I just bought a home, actually in December of last year.

But I originally grew up in St. Clair County, Michigan.

Just outside of new Baltimore actually.

Before I begin though I really want to take a moment to thank the Commission for all of your hard work in drawing fair maps for Michigan and just thank you for your dedication to this process.

Today I am here the talk specifically about the State Senate map.

The proposed State Senate map for District 7 brings together the Wayne County cities of the Grosse Pointes, and Harper Woods and it extends all along Lake St. Clair to St. Clair County cities as far out as new Baltimore and marine City.

I want to express that I understand why this decision was made.

Folks may perceive these communities along Lake St. Clair as a community of interest. Or all of them together.

However, as someone who has grown up in St. Clair County and has family there, I have to say that the State Senate map for District 7 really needs to be reconsidered and redrawn.

It simply goes stretches too far along Lake St. Clair and groups extremely different communities together.

I think having the District start in Wayne County and span all the way as far as new Baltimore and marine City is very much disenfranchising the residents of Wayne County especially those in Harper Woods.

While cities like Harper Woods and new Baltimore while they may border the same body of water along Lake St. Clair these communities are vastly different from one another.

So I would just really ask that you reconsider State Senate map District 7.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next to speak is Curt-V.

>> Can you hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, we can hear you.

>> Thank you.

I'd like to thank the Commission for uniting Ottawa County in the Congressional District but I also encourage you to look at uniting Ottawa County as a State Senate District.

I am a member of the Ottawa County road Commission.

We one of our tasks is providing water to 12 of the 14 Townships in Ottawa County.

One of the big issues facing our County is that the water aquifer, the upper aquifer is contaminated and cannot be used for drinking or irrigation.

Everybody has been tapping into the lower aquifer and that is becoming low and we are having residents that are not able to have water or being forced to connect to sewer lines or abandon their homes.

To me this is an agricultural and a water issue for Ottawa County because we will probably have to look at providing water to the residents and to all lot of these farmers for irrigation and for processing of food materials.

This will also involve taking water from Lake Michigan.

That's why I believe we need to be unified so we have a unified voice when we are dealing both at the state and Federal level.

I thank you for your time.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line to speak is ASM-Raman.

Forgive me Asm Raman.

>> Good afternoon, can you hear me?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, we can hear you.

>> My name is Asm and I'm from Hamtramck area.

We looked at the Bangla Town area map in discussions yesterday.

However unfortunately several blocks are left out with another District.

And it's kind of divides the community not only Bangla Town but Yemeni community if you would consider moving the map a few blocks south to up to 94, 75 to the west,

maybe some to the north and mount and mound to the east this will include the entire Bangla Town community.

And after that actually Mont beyond that it's all industrial so appreciate if you reconsider and I want to thank you for your time and letting me speak.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Lynn B.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Kellom could you disclose where you are attending remotely from?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Attending remotely from Wayne County, Michigan.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, we can hear you.

>> My name is Lynn.

I'm a Michigander with deep roots in our state, a resident of Hamtramck.

And I've been actively involved for over 15 years.

I had a chance to meet many of you in the town hall in Warren and when you came to visit us in Hamtramck.

Thank you for making time for us and thank you for your continued efforts to keep the Bangla Town community together.

I know you've been doing your best given everything else you need to take into consideration.

I ask that you keep the following in mind when considering District 2.

Home to most of the Bangladeshi community.

If and when you need to shift us around, please consider adding more space to the south and to the east.

In order to include the Yemeni community in our District.

Thank you very much for your time.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line to speak is Kathy L.

>> Hi, my name is Kathy L and I live in Midland County and on behalf of many community voices in Midland County we want to thank you for the latest Congressional map number 187.

Thank you for keeping Midland County whole.

Thank you for keeping Midland County aligned with westward facing rural communities.

And I ask that you please use the same logic to reconsider the Senate maps.

Midland County should remain whole and aligned to Gladwin County and any version of the Senate map.

Anything less than that will result in a major setback to the flood recovery and management process.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line is Katherine D.

>> Hello good afternoon thank you Commissioners and staff for your hard work and your encouraging public participation.

Appreciate the privilege today to hear other testimony as well as offer my own.

I'm Kathy second generation lifelong resident of Michigan first in Royal Oak then in the City of Detroit and now Washtenaw County currently in Ypsilanti City.

I'd like to make two points.

First a genuinely fair set of maps are disproportionate partisan advantage results in legislative and Congressional seats being won in a proportion very close to overall turn out of Michigan's elaborate.

Joining only a modest degree in the geographic area.

With fair maps elections would be legitimate contests not forgone conclusions since creating unbalanced districts subverts the whole intent of proposal two.

Unfortunately as we see already such balance is difficult to achieve given current geographical segregation emerging from historical roots.

Second the Commission will succeed by considering all of the ranked mapping criteria on a wholistic way flexing the inter connectedness.

In support of fairness take special care not to overcome plate some communities of interest from the smallest possible member of the District.

I join those who oppose creating one soul Congressional District for the City of Detroit for example.

Since restricting majority Black population and reduces the addressing the other adjoining districts and regions of the state including my own may be better served by not over concentrating other communities of interest.

It is of course a matter of balance as well as equity, not a one size fits all process.

But a complex path requiring careful on going attention.

I look forward to seeing the maps when the Commission produces their next state.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

Next in line to speak is Erica P.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: For the purposes of the public record, number 16, 17 and 18 are not present.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you I believe that Macon clued remote public comment.

Next in line so now that we have finalized or finished our first round of, oh.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Number 18 just joined.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Very good number 18 Robert D.

>> Hello, can you hear me.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes, we can hear you.

>> Okay great hey I just wanted because I was catching a little of the meeting earlier today but when you guys were starting to split up my hometown area of Grosse Pointe. I'm from Grosse Pointe park.

And I noted that the District 4 you guys had created before to begin the day was 42.something percent African/American voting age population.

Which is basically right at exactly the sweet spot that your consultants have asked you to get to.

Really, really, really close.

The next District over I understand was over where you wanted it.

But you had one that was compliant and one that was noncompliant according to my understanding of what your consultants have said then you split up the Grosse Pointes in order to create two different districts each of which I think, now I couldn't see as well but I think are like in the mid to high 50s in terms of African/American voting age population so you went from one that was compliant and one that was noncompliant to two that are both noncompliant and splitting up the Grosse Pointes and because they are at the what T there is nowhere else to go to get more population on the current District 4 and so you backed yourself into a corner there with a noncompliant District and you split up a community of interest.

I would request respectfully that you leave the 42% go back to one that was 42% right in the sweet spot.

Leave the community of interest intact.

And then you know look somewhere else for the population you need to even out that District 6.

If you guys need to even it out.

Which is a different question altogether.

Any way thank you for listening I really appreciate and hope you will consider it thanks.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission.

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.

Please step to the nearest microphone or number you will have two minutes to address the Commission and please conclude when your two minutes has ended and you hear the timer.

Please go to the first in line to provide public comment is number one.

Okay, sounds like he may have left.

Are you number one? No.

You're number two okay so we will move on to speaker number two.

Okay thank you.

>> If I learned anything it's to watch and listen to Sarah.

Hey, thank you for the second chance to speak.

I have two different messages today.

So different that I thought I better split them up.

I was trying to come up with a better thing to open with than the knitting analogy but I haven't got one so I'm sorry I will instead give a shout out to Mr. Adelson and Ms. Pastula.

I bet you didn't see that coming, did you? I really would want the thank you all for your hard work.

I also want to recognize how hard they're working for you.

And in the following way.

I'm very much for communities of interest.

Supported the prop two et cetera.

I'm very much for fairness.

Absolutely, totally.

Don't want you to miss the boat on those things.

But VRA is a higher level of priority.

It's our job as citizens to come before you and advocate for our communities of interest.

And certainly for fairness.

And I've done that at different at previous meetings.

So I won't do it again here today.

But it's their job to remind you that you have a positive responsibility to follow through on VRA obligations.

There may be nobody who shows up advocating for VRA and yet you still have to do it.

And they are in a difficult position of trying to guide you into doing something that you have been almost trained not to do because we in the advocacy community have talked so darn much about COIs and now we are talking a lot about fairness.

If other people were talking about those things, I would talk about them now but I think they have that covered so I'm going to leave you with the idea that Harry Truman is repeated to have said please give me a one handed economist and I'm going to put this on those two.

Sometimes they give you on the one hand on the other hand kind of advice and I hope you can sort it out, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you very much.

For that public comment. Now that the opportunity for second live public comment we will move to the second opportunity for live remote public comment.

Individual who have signed up and indicated they would like to provide live remote public commentary to the Commission will now be allowed to do so we will use the

same process as the first round and the first in line to provide public comment is James Gallant.

>> Thank you.

This is James Gallant, Marquette, these are my opinions.

And about your rules of procedure, I believe that it would be to approve that amendment for your rules of procedure today would be contradict the rules and for lack of proper notice.

I believe that your Executive Director said you need three days' notice, so you would have to, you know, agree to it and then give three day notice.

And also you clearly in the middle of deliberations on the draft amendments.

At the last meeting opened up debate, offering recommendations. Commissioner Lett actually locked in some amendments.

Bam, with no motion, no second.

Didn't, no immediately pending question, what up with that? Now, I'd like to give you a concrete example that I saw today, and that is why we need this motion and why you are scared of motion and voting is we need that because Adelson testified that the legal staff lost track of the VRA districts that needed to be addressed.

Well, the Chair, that is because the Chair didn't entertain a motion to create a list of VRA districts that need to be addressed.

And then when you come across it, number one, okay, motion to add it to the list.

Now you got a list.

You should have been doing this the whole time. And you have been missing stuff and losing stuff. And Commissioner Witjes and I paraphrase and comes to the meeting and then brings the recommendation from a committee and says something like, oh, this is mostly by memory. Mostly by memory a report from the committee, that means me is making it up on the fly. And, yeah, thank you Commissioner Witjes for dealing with Ottawa County over. There at the Holland area right. Slipped right in there and got that done.

Yeah.

You know, and he is the one talking about the rules. Oh, we got a good source of rules and what not.

And another little trick he pulled was when he is like, oh, wait a minute you all agreed, you all agreed in the past.

Yeah, over the table, a wink and a nod, you agree to things. And now he is calling you out, saying, no, you agreed in the past. You need to be doing this. Yeah, playing on the emotions and that is bullying and that is what this is.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Mr. Gallant, your allotted two minutes have concluded. And the next in line to provide second public comment is Anthony S.

>> Hello, Commissioners. Anthony S, lifelong Wayne County resident. And I'm sorry about the lawnmower or weedwhacker just started doing that next to me, but I can't close the window because I'm smoking like a chimney.

I'm not happy with your Congressional maps as you know primarily because it's treatment of Wayne County and the Down River Area, which your configuration you have been primarily just working on one Congressional draft although it's undergone adjustments it would separate Down River into two districts one of which would include part of Macomb and the other which would include part of Jackson County and I think this configuration is guaranteed to you know just give an unresponsive unfamiliar representative for each of those in terms of Down Rivers interest for U.S. Congress. And so I understand it needs to be with southwest Detroit, the area I'm speaking of Allen Park, Melvindale, River Rouge, Ecorse and Lincoln Park because it's a Latino community of interest but up to Macomb seems like a stretch to me and hope you would change that is so either could be an adjustment but I don't know might require a whole new draft map or maybe an individual proposal that someone submits. I don't know.

But I hope that you do all please submit your individual proposals even your craziest wild ideas of them just for and please do approve them all as a group. Just for public consideration.

I'd rather have you know a wide variety to choose from embarrassment of riches than one or two you know so, so okay maps that and you know you said you are not going to be able to change them throughout the entirety of the public hearing process so it would be great if we had multiple, multiple individually proposed whatever maps to proposed for Congress beyond your collaborative one, which I don't like. Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you for addressing the Commission. This concludes our public comment.

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.

Next, I'd like to return to unfinished business and without objection continue with the draft mapping adjustments and we were there with you Anthony, weren't we? Are you ready to continue? Actually we are not quite there.

We will need just a few minutes.

Are there any questions or comments? Chair Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yeah so, I've kind of been working this morning on sort of round two of VRA amendments and I did come up with a map, I'm not going to pretend this doesn't look crazy so but I just sent it over to John.

But it does bring our percentages down in most districts below 40% and we have a few like 53, 52, I think the highest is 53.

So I did send that over to John if you guys want to look at it.

I think it might be easier than having us do it individually.

Again I'm not vouching for these districts.

I just I tried.

I did what Mr. Adelson asked and tried to lower the numbers.

And we've got some crazy show string districts but if everybody wants to look at that, I think it might and have Mr. Adelson look at it and see if this is what you are thinking we might do to be compliant that might be helpful.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Is this draft distinct from the version submitted the day before yesterday?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Okay, per our process they must be submitted to the Secretary of State one day before so they can be publicly posted.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Clark I saw your hand and want to make sure General Counsel gets in while we are waiting for mapping for Commissioner Eid because I think partisan fairness was something we wanted to address Commissioner Clark do you have something quick?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Rebecca.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Changes you made you just referred to are they just in the Detroit area?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Okay while we are waiting for our mapping software to boot up Commissioner or General Counsel would you like to address partisan fairness?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I would thank you so much Vice Chair Rothorn.

So very briefly I wanted to highlight again for the benefit of the public that partisan fairness according to subsection 13 of the Constitution, which sets forth the ranked criteria that the Commission is legally required to follow, the language regarding partisan fairness is 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.

That language does not require and actually prohibits the Commission from considering the election results while they are mapping.

Accepted measures of partisan fairness and measures are run on statewide plan. Which the Commission run on statewide plans.

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They cannot map in the manner in which the public is advocating.

They are legally prohibited from doing so.

The partisan fairness measures when run again the Commission's expert Dr. Lisa Handley will be here tomorrow to run those partisan fairness measures on the statewide plans.

And then the Commission will be able to make amendments, if necessary, based on those measures.

And again the language is shall not provide a disproportionate advantage.

This language is key.

This language is what must be followed and the Commission cannot vary this language or modify the Constitution or not follow the Constitution or else the entire map will be put in jeopardy.

In legal jeopardy.

So it really is critical I think for the public to understand and appreciate the position that the Commission is in.

And that they are required to follow the Constitution as adopted.

By the voters in Michigan.

Again, to the goal was to end partisan gerrymandering and not draw maps based on political considerations which is what this Commission has done to date and will continue to do, get the partisan fairness results and then their legal team can advise on appropriate next steps.

Thank you Mr. Vice Chair se Szetela thank you General Counsel so Anthony I think we will hand it over to you to direct the line drawers.

Looks like Mr. Morgan over there.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Madam Chair can I interject.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Thank you for your ongoing efforts and there is something that occurred to me that I wanted to make clear.

One of the things that this Commission is doing, which is quite different than the typical approach to redistricting, you are essentially unpacking districts.

You are essentially leveling the playing field as the Voting Rights Act was intended when it was passed in 1965.

And the Supreme Court has said that is a more challenging process than just packing people of color together willy-nilly.

Frankly that is not difficult to do.

But you are doing the opposite.

And I think it's really important that everybody realize that.

And that, that is why the process is challenging and the process does involve many steps here and there, so I just wanted to make that clarification because I think it is a very salient one.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Mr. Adelson, Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Okay, well let's continue unpacking the districts.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Are you ready Mr. Morgan?

>> MR. MORGAN: Almost I think I have one of the two monitors ready.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay thank you.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Chairperson Szetela you missed my joke I said I can keep going.

>> MR. MORGAN: I need to go into the Zoom meeting again just a moment.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, if we are going to continue to do this, and we have a time constraint, and Rebecca has got a plan that appears to meet the criteria that we are trying to get to, can we make an exception to our rule? This is a development effort.

This is not anything that is cast in stone yet.

And so for conversation I mean I would like to propose a motion that we allow her to present her's.

And so we can get an idea of what we are talking about sed Szetela I mean another suggestion Commissioner Clark since we have Mr. Adelson here is we could move away from the house map and move to the Congressional because I think we had some VRA concerns with the Congressional as well and there it's two districts and may be easier to adjust.

I mean that is another suggestion but General Counsel do you want to weigh in?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you Madam Chair.

Yes, again I think a very efficient approach would again to be go through which plan again? Certainly Madam Chair moving over shifting over to the Congressional plan would be appropriate and again I would recommend that the Commission look at the active matrix data to look at population as well as Black voting age population to determine the compliance with the criteria.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: If I understand the question correctly, Commissioner Clark, you're asking if you can suspend the rule of your process to allow viewing of Commissioner Szetela's alternate draft although it's not posted on the website; is that correct?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: That's correct because we are in a development process.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: I defer to your General Counsel on that point.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm against it let's just keep going with what we were doing.

This is wasting time.

And it will be up there tomorrow.

We are here tomorrow.

We can go over it tomorrow but for now let's get as far as we can on what we were doing and the organized way we were doing it based off from what we already approved as a process.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Commissioner Lange.

So we do have a motion only the floor but it does not have a second.

So was that Commissioner Lett? So Commissioner Clark has made a motion to deviate from our process so that we can view the map.

But I just submitted and seconded by Commissioner Lett is there any debate or discussion on the motion? All right hearing none let's go ahead and vote and Department of State can we get a roll call on this?

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely.

Commissioners please say "Yes" or "No" to indicate your support of the motion.

The motion being to suspend the rules of your current process to allow Commissioner Szetela to present her alternate map.

I will call on you in alphabetical order starting with Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: MC Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid in.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: By a vote of 3 yes to 10 no, the motion does not carry.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Department of State staff.

Okay so back to you Anthony do you want to continue working with the...Commissioner Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Just a comment that we voted that down but there is nothing to prevent you from when it comes back around to you or if someone wants to go into that area to make, help them or you make those changes currently.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you that is accurate Commissioner Lett.

Commissioner Eid are you sticking with the house or are you moving to the Congress?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I think we have significantly more changes to make in the house so we will stick with that.

And.

>> MR. MORGAN: To clarify I brought up the map in exactly where the state was where we still had the neighborhood split.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So just to recap can we get the matrix for districts number 6 and 4 displayed? Okay so we were looking to shift the population from these three neighborhoods that are currently in District 6 into District 4 into a different place. So John could you highlight the do you see the two neighborhoods that are above Grosse Pointes? There, they are more to the west? Yeah, that one and the adjacent that looks like a strip.

>> MR. MORGAN: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Select the precincts in the neighborhood just trying to look at how many people are in those two neighborhoods.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay so 48, 58, 63, so in those two about 11,000.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: 11,000.

Now let's move further to the left on District 4.

Let's see if we can switch that population to still be connected to 6 so we can't go all the way down there and may be a weird shape to maintain those neighborhoods being with Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Farms as was in the community of interest map that Commissioner Rothhorn had suggested following for this area.

So can we find about 11,000 or so people in this area that you're highlighting?

>> MR. MORGAN: Would you like me to remove this first so we know what the precise amount is.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes, put that area back into 4.

Let's make note before that happens of the Black voting age population numbers for both of these districts, for District 4 it's 58.5%.

And for District 6 it is 45.8%.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: The formula was there you go.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So that little square let's assign that into District 6.

I think you will have to go down to blocks, yep, to do that.

Okay so now let's Zoom out and let's go to the area westward where District 6 now ends.

Those two parts of it directly connected to 6 let's add those that are on the western tail of six right now.

Wonderful let's add those two neighborhoods.

Okay let's add the rest of that neighborhood that is partially taken.

Right that one.

Yes, let's take that area as well.

>> MR. MORGAN: Median of outer drive.

No undo that?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yep.

Okay let's Zoom out.

Let's continue to go west.

To get that area that is underneath District 10.

Yeah, let's complete that square over there.

Okay that looks like 04 and 2 have checkmarks where are we? Can we make it closer, 4 is overpopulated and 6 is right about equal.

So we could take a little bit more to try to even those numbers out.

I'm just wondering what our percentages are at this point.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: For 4 we are 57.2 currently non-Hispanic Black voting age population and we were at 58.6.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: So it didn't change too much.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Right and with six we were at 45.8.

Now we are a little bit higher.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: A little bit higher.

Okay, I think we need to just add a little bit more to District 6 in order to balance out District 4.

So let's just take those, yep, that one in that neighborhood and the two neighborhoods to the west of it.

Then I think we will call it a day.

Okay we can leave it there, I think.

>> MR. MORGAN: Do you want to and this to back out of that neighborhood?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: With the neighborhood so let's take those blocks out.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: And put it back into four.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothorn if you could please facilitate.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Orton and Commissioner Eid and John but then Commissioner Orton then Commissioner Clark.

Sorry that was not very clear.

Commissioner Orton please proceed.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Okay, so before you did this, Commissioner Eid, the voting age Black population in District 4 was 41.2% which is quite a bit closer to the target that we are going for.

Now it's a lot higher.

So besides we split up the area we were trying to keep together.

So do we think it's an improvement?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Orton do you want a respond from Commissioner Eid there.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Or anyone.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I think that with how we had District -- you were just speaking of District number 6 correct or are you speaking of District 4?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: District 4 is substantially more out of the range than what we wanted.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think John is bringing up that, right, what you were suggesting or saying Cynthia, right is that it was well the minority percentage for 4 but voting age was 41% Black Hispanic and now it's 58 and for District 6 it is significantly lower, yeah, so that is the question right Cynthia.

Like is it an improvement? Commissioner Eid do you want to try to analyze that or do you want Mr. Adelson or move to Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I think the purpose was to shift the Black voting age percentage from District 4 I'm sorry District 6 which was at 67% lower.

So now instead of having one District way over on the percent we Ned to hit we have two that are close both being around the 45-55% range which I think is a more in line with what we need to get than the 68% range it was at before.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Orton do you have a response.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I thought we were going 35-40% so they are both way out from what I'm thinking.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Mr. Adelson do you want to help us?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I do think it's a net improvement and that things are moving in the right direction.

Does that mean that you know we are necessarily finished with them? I would say, no. But I do think that as part of the overall process, yes, there is a net improvement because one of the questions that not a question but one thing to keep in mind is since this is a large urban City with concentrated population, we still may find that we cannot achieve the absolute sweet spot for every District.

I think that that's an aspirational goal.

But I don't know that we can get there.

So for purposes of now, there is a net improvement and I think that as the process continues that I expect the improvements will continue.

Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Want me to move on to Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I was going to ask Bruce Adelson's opinion on it so.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Clark and Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We were able to maintain a community of interest with Grosse Pointe Farms with Grosse Point and those adjacent neighborhoods that were submitted to us.

So I think that is also a positive.

While we had to split up all of the five Grosse Pointes from each other for the house map they are still together on the Senate map and the Congressional map.

While I really honestly don't like it, I think that if that is what we got to do to get to compliance that is what we got to do.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thanks Commissioner Eid.

So I think that concludes your turn.

I think we've I this -- I think we are okay.

And Commissioner Kellom we are on to you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Hello, okay, what other were needing tweaking? I know that there was a list.

I heard Chair Szetela call out the numbers and I'm also looking at the percentages but if you know them offhand.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: The point is we have a lot of districts high African/American percentages and going down the list and looking at ones that were high and try to bring them in the range of 35-40 so you can start with any District that is high.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Are you familiar with this spreadsheet John has brought up here.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes, MC I am.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yeah, it was honestly just an effort to orient you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes, no I've been listing.

What I'm asking to expedite it if we can call it a number because I have not been writing them down but I can scan for myself this that is easier and look at the percentage and figure it out that way.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I think it was number 18 that was the one that was high.

>> MR. MORGAN: That was adjusted by Commissioner Curry.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Curry did that one.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I think she was deciding between the District and I think it was 18.

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: 2 and 18.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Excuse me, I would suggest with the discussion if we just -- and I'm happy to facilitate this for anyone as we go down the list and we just looked at four and six, we looked at eight, we are looking at eight yesterday, eight is this over 58%.

So eight might be a suggestion that I would propose now and that I would suggest too from a compliance standpoint as we keep an ordered process of just going down this list.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: And then the districts will become obvious. We can then have a process that is in the record that we have a systematic approach which is going down the list literally of the districts and looking at the voting age population and then making a determination of, okay, let's go in here.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I heard Commissioner Kellom I heard Mr. Adelson say he would help facilitate this.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I heard him say that.

So I guess I understood all of that so we didn't make a list of just the ones we need to address so I will just go with eight.

>> MR. MORGAN: Commissioner Kellom this is John Morgan I will be helping you draw maps I wanted to point out before you start District 8 was thrown out population alignment by adjustments in 18 so 8 and 21, I will bring those up so you can see. So at the moment 8 is over by 15,000 people. And then District 21 is under by 16,000. So that's just something to keep in mind as you reconfigure 8 it's currently overpopulated.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, and what is 18? Because I'm looking at what is around it, 10 is.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Kellom I'll be your eyes in the room here but I would like you to sort of help knowing you have Mr. Adelson and Mr. Morgan to help you, yeah, please take it away.

>> CHAIR KELLOM:

>> MR. MORGAN: District 8 currently has Highland park a portion of Detroit around Highland Park.

Ferndale and Hazel Park.

And I think, yeah, we had just moved this portion from 18 to 8 and that's what's causing it to be overpopulated.

For example if you moved that back into 18 then that would just undo what was done essentially.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: What area is that Berkeley that was moved? Can we get the neighborhoods up?

>> MR. MORGAN: Berkeley was added to 18 then I'll put the neighborhoods.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: So, John, let's move that portion of 8 back into 18.

I was quiet initially because I was trying to read what was going on in 2 and 10 and trying to decide which way I wanted to go.

But that's fine.

We can move a portion that was put into 8 back into 18.

>> MR. MORGAN: Sorry I took more than you intended, I think.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Wait a minute.

>> MR. MORGAN: I'll take it a little bit less at a time.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay.

>> MR. MORGAN: So we are removing or putting in 18 so I will go with this group here first.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Yep 1988, 827, 1916, 1193.

>> MR. MORGAN: Then I will go the other way with it.

Just a second.

Okay so with those changes 18 is on the nose for population and 8 is still over.

So 8 is over.

So do you want me to take more into 18?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Yeah, we can.

What is the VA P for 8? Is it is that 56.point, 56.7.

>> MR. MORGAN: This area here this neighborhood?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Yes.

>> MR. MORGAN: As you see it here 8 is over by 2600 and 18 is over by 10 which probably has to do with taking Berkeley to the north.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: John what is the non-Hispanic Black the BVAP for 8 because there are three Rs there now.

>> MR. MORGAN: That is where those keystrokes went.

[Laughter]

Kellom coastline I think it was 56.7.

Okay it changed.

That is still over.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Keep in mind with the population that the since this is not a Congressional map so you have more room to play with the deviations.

If this were a Congressional map it would have to be much lower but 2.9 deviation up or down in the direction, we are going I think is for now I think is fine.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Even with me, Bruce, meddling like I did with 18?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Well look at what you've done in just a few minutes. You are diversifying the district and addressing, addressing the compliance concerns, so the numbers are moving in the direction that compliance dictates that the deviation for now I don't think is an issue.

Because you're under the 5% ideal.

Remember ideal doesn't mean legally required.

So I think for now, for 8 I think everything is going well.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay it's the over achiever in me.

I want magical things to happen in the other districts that clearly just could not happen by me shifting things in 8. Are there thoughts from any of my fellow Commissioners?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I'm just thinking about 18 because 18 I think, yeah.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: That is what I was saying too.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: If I can interject, yes, 18 is a consideration.

We talked about that yesterday.

But I think that it's very important that we stick to this systematic pattern where we just go down the list.

We will be getting to 18.

We are almost there now.

But I think it's important that we stick with where we are.

8 I said is moving in a positive direction.

Whether or not it moves further now with Commissioner Kellom or moves with someone else of course is not my call.

But I think it is important to keep to that systematic approach, straight down the line for compliance and not jump among districts.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Mr. Adelson that is your nice way of saying move on to another District, Brittini your turn is finished.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: No Commissioner Kellom that is not what I'm saying. What I'm saying is that you and I have again collaborated in a very positive direction.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: In all respects that I'm seeing so whether or not that is something you continue to do now, I don't know what the considerations is of whether it's your turn or someone else's turn.

If it is your turn, I would respectfully request that we continue with 8.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Kellom this is your area and I think many of us would appreciate your help.

Commissioner Weiss does have a hand raised.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Good afternoon, Commissioner Kellom.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Hi Commissioner Weiss.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: How are you doing?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: My Peach tree is growing again.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: On 18 on the bottom four rows the far left one if you move that from 18, yes, John, right that, and take that and put it in 21 that will help some of your population.

What else it does I'm not sure.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: That is what I was saying looking at 18 and 21 should I keep going and like I understand what Bruce was saying but I was looking at the population so John can we kind of Zoom into 18 and look at that.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: What we have done is moved into compliance and trying to do compliance and what Mr. Adelson is suggesting we have to shift our habits potentially.

We have been mapping and draft mapping and because we are in compliance now if we don't have a systematic approach, we may not be able to help back up our case. And we had a systematic approach so I think what I want to offer is Mr. Adelson would rather us move into 9 like mark what Commissioner Weiss just said.

And we will come you know when we get to 18, we will do that.

But and Bruce Adelson want to speak.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I said my turn is finished because we should move on to that is what I heard that we should move on to the next District.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Systematic approach, yes. Absolutely that new mindset, new mantra however it's described. 8 is still a little on the high side.

So Commissioner Kellom, if that is something that you would like to go back and see if we can make some further refinements as you were making, I'm all for that.

Because nine really isn't a District that is an issue.

The next District would be ten but ten is not the same as eight.

Eight is almost 54% BVAP if you are inclined and I'm so inclined to keep on a roll.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: That is what I would like to, yes, please do that Commissioner Kellom.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: That is what I'm trying to do y'all but you are confusing me.

That means I have to touch another District to do eight.

So that is what I'm attempting to do Commissioner Weiss made a suggestion that would help me even out eight but when I tried to do that, that was.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Got it. Yeah, I think, yes, we are navigating this together. My apologies.

Commissioner Eid has a hand.

>> COMMISSIONER EID:

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Oh, goodness, okay.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: We are saying eight is still on the high side being at 53.85%?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: So Commissioner Eid I was getting mixed messages I heard what Bruce said about that.

And because I thought that 53 was high.

But he said it's not that high considering so then I was going to stop my turn.

But then we got more hands so I'm going to stop talking and I want a specific direction in terms of what to do.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Commissioner Kellom, I don't want you to use the term direction but I will say I wish you and I continued our collaboration with District eight to further our compliance refinement.

And that the population that we will need to adjust from 8, that will you know obviously affect the connected districts.

But I think that -- my recommendation is you and I continue with eight to see how we can further improve the population for the balance of your turn if that is okay with you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay Roth Commissioner Kellom I think Commissioner Eid may have a follow-up to that thought go ahead Commissioner Eid.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I think what is confusing everybody because it's definitely confusing me, I look at that number 53% that it's at now and it doesn't -- and this is more of a feeling, right, it does not feel that high compared to the population of the City itself.

Now I know our analysis has said that it only takes about 35-40% of Black voting age population to elect the candidate of choice for that community.

But I think my most basic question is: What is the highest percentage it can be to fend off legal challenges in the future? We might not be able to answer that now, but you know, examining that question and figuring out like what is the actual target we need to hit.

As you said earlier, we are not going to be able to get to 35-40 percent for every one of these Detroit districts I mean I don't see a way to do it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think through the actions of Mr. Adelson and Kellom they will try to experiment and see if they can get it lower.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I think to that point yes absolutely.

And to Commissioner Eid's point that one of the things to recall is one of the items that we discussed back in July when we discussed the racial gerrymandering and packing of districts.

The Supreme Court takes a District by District functional analysis approach. If the people in this area, which they can, can elect candidates of choice below 50%, then rhetorically how do you justify creating distributes that are over 50%.

So there is no like absolute magic bullet like you are guaranteed everything is cool.

But 53.85% yes, it's an improvement.

Yes, it is moving in the right direction.

But my feeling is that there is more to be done here.

Because I am low to just say creating 54, 55, 56% majority minority districts in an area that analysis is determined, Black voters can elect at percentages lower.

I'm not prepared to do that.

So the axiom that Commissioner Rothhorn with all due respect kind of said in my head is try.

There is still more trying to do.

We are not at the end of the line yet.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay, I agree with that.

I just want so my understanding from the beginning when I looked at the number is I should get it lower especially because of the neighboring districts needed some adjusting any way.

So that's what I was aiming to do.

Bruce I'm ready.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I'm with you.

I don't know the area as well as other people in the room but I'm with you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: What I'm thinking to remove the population and look at the VAP this little area that kind of goes into District 2 can we Zoom in and let me see this neighborhood? Because I'm thinking of taking some of the lower part of 8 and putting that.

>> MR. MORGAN: This is Highland Park the Township within the City of Detroit that is a separate Township and Hamtramck, the cities that are inside Detroit.

So they are right here then the neighborhoods are around them.

And this is the boundary of eight and two.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Commissioner Kellom if I could also suggest there may be places to adjust to the north, north adjoining District is District 23.

Which I think has -- does not have a significant BVAP population so that is just the suggestion is another place to look for adjustments.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: And I need to make eight lower in population as well. I'm about 2600 over in eight.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Remember Commissioner Kellom the amount you're within the sweet spot with the deviation for a non-Congressional plan.

The percentages under 3%.

It is very common to have state legislative redistricting plans that have deviations above that.

And the Supreme Court has said that's fine.

As long as you're pursuing a legitimate interest the pursuit here is Voting Rights Act compliance, that has been recognized for decades.

Including during the last round of redistricting. As a legitimate pursuit.

So you're with the deviation right now, 2600 over, you're good.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Can I go over any more than that? A little bit over.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Yes, you can.

And.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Let me go to the north then and let me see what is happening.

Can you go up, John? Thank you.

>> MR. MORGAN: Sure right up here you are at the border of turn Dale and Hazel Park and Royal Oak.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Can you put the neighborhood overlay.

>> MR. MORGAN: This is 8 mile now you are in Oakland County.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: It's not working when you tried the layer.

>> MR. MORGAN: It's not that it's not working.

This is the end of Wayne County and this is Oakland County.

So they don't have a neighborhood overlay in the same way.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I understand that.

It's okay.

I still want for Detroit so I can still it's still grounding for me.

But you can let's take some population from Royal Oak.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Let's see which one it is.

>> MR. MORGAN: 2622 or on the west.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: 2478 next to pleasant ridge.

We can take that.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Maybe take 2786.

>> MR. MORGAN: This is Royal Oak and this is Madison Heights.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I was looking at Huntington Woods because that would be kind of keeping in the same community but that's I feel like I'm doing a little too much.

Bruce, anyone have any thoughts?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I think the numbers you know I think as I said the numbers are moving in a positive direction.

I think that there may be areas of 8 that do not negatively impact the BVAP population, that may be looked at as well.

I think that as you add precincts, you're getting the deviation is getting into an area that is higher.

So this may be an area of eight as it exists that you could take off, that perhaps adjusts the voting age population in a way that is continues to go in a positive direction.

And I can't say whether that's whether that area would be located on either side.

But I think that I'm not sure that, I almost recommend adding additional areas to the north because the deviation is about 8.-- it's almost point 9 points 9% so I think taking off a little bit, that and let's see where we can go with that.

Are there areas to the south or the east, north or the northwest of the northeast that you think you might be able to remove that could help the numbers further?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Is there a theme that might help Commissioner Kellom, a dots with the Asian?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I asked for the neighborhood overlay but.

>> MR. MORGAN: I put the neighborhood overlay back on.

I because just showing the boundary of the whole District.

I will put the whole neighborhood back on.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Okay.

So John when I meant the neighborhood overlay with the words.

>> MR. MORGAN: All right let me see if I can do that.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: The names.

The labeling.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I think it's under layer manager, John.

Yep.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you I really appreciate that.

Okay.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: May I make a suggestion?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I'm not sure I'm reading it correctly the northeast Central District, is that neighborhood split between 8 and 10?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I can't tell because of it looks like northeast and Central, no.

>> MR. MORGAN: It does not appear to be split.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: It's not, that is colonial gardens.

What if we put Dexter, Lynnwood and unassigning that and putting it in with two.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Or pieces of it.

Because I don't want to get carried away.

>> MR. MORGAN: Just finishing up the neighborhood.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: That little piece supposed to be with Oakland Boulevard community?

>> MR. MORGAN: Yes, I will adjust that.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you.

The number is lower I definitely increased the population for District 2 though.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: To is almost 11% deviation so that is going to have to be addressed.

Anyway regardless of the BVAP population but if we could, could we look at the bellwether election results now for the readjusted District 8?

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay. For 2020 President Biden 84, Trump 16.

2016 is Clinton 85, Trump 15.

Obama 87, Romney 13.

For Senate Peters 83, James 17.

For Senate Stabenow 83, James 17.

2014 Senate 88 for Peters.

And 12 for Land.

Stabenow is 89.

Hoekstra is 11.

For Governor Whitmer 85 and Schuette is 15.

For Governor in 2014 Showers 78 and Snyder 22.

For Attorney General 84 Nessel and 16 for Leonard.

Totten is 81, Schuette is 19 for Attorney General.

For Secretary of State 85 for Benson, 15 for Lange.

Dillard 78, Johnson 22 and then the primary for Governor in sorry 2018, 39 for El-Sayed, 21 Thanedar and 39 for Whitmer.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: So I think, excuse me, I think the election results look good, particularly the bellwether ap the 2014 Secretary of State race.

So I think that as far as the, our Voting Rights Act goals you know this moves in a very good direction.

So what I would suggest is that we continue to move down the list, we will have to go back to two to certainly to deal with the deviation it's about a 10,000 person difference and that may also help us with the V RA compliance.

But I think that that's a big improvement.

So you know for now I think things look okay.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Mr. Adelson.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Thank you.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I don't know if I have anything else.

John thank you.

I don't know if I have any other adjustments at this time.

>> MR. MORGAN: You're welcome.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Mr. Kellom we have about 15 minutes we could stop no and go into new business but I would try to keep going and since you do know the area I'm wondering if you would be willing to continue.

I'm not seeing any other hands in the room that are objecting.

So if you would help us, you know, finish out the, our old business here with the mapping in the Detroit area to get our VRA compliance better, I think we would appropriate it.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Commissioner Kellom can I make a suggestion.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: What does that mean moving on to another District in Detroit is that what you are saying?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes Mr. Adelson will help.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I was trying to clarify what your ask was first.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Commissioner Kellom if you are inclined to move on to another District, I'm more than happy to continue our collaboration.

I would suggest if we do that, that we go to District 14.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay let's look at District 14 John.

>> MR. MORGAN: I'll turn the neighborhoods off for just a moment.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Isn't it easier to see with all that.

>> MR. MORGAN: I can.

Portion of Redford, a portion of Livonia and a portion of Detroit with what you see up to harmony village.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Let me see for one second.

So I'm looking at District 14.

We can take the neighborhoods off.

>> MR. MORGAN: Are you sure, you might miss them.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Don't worry I'll have them up again because I just can't see the boundary of 14.

It goes up where? Because okay, Redford.

>> MR. MORGAN: Just to clarify again Livonia and Redford and Brightmoor is in this area.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay you can put them back up again the neighborhoods.

And we are at 59%.

What is around 14 that I can dig in to?

>> MR. MORGAN: 17 to the north.

15 to the south.

Looks like this is sorry three which is in Dearborn.

Two which is over here and overpopulated currently. 18 to the north.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay, why don't we take some pieces and what is happening with 17? Just so I have a general picture like numbers wise percentage. Is there a way to isolate the districts and the one I'm working on?

>> MR. MORGAN: Yes.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Okay, can we see what happens when we kind of finish off that little block that is around Redford Township and move in what would that be west into Livonia a little bit? Yeah.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay so you want to extent District 14 into Livonia or take 17 and Redford and Livonia.

>> CHAIR KELLUM: I want to take I want to put some of Livonia into District 14.

>> MR. MORGAN: Do you want to take that portion of Livonia from 17 or 35?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: 17.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay, so these two first that are adjacent?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Yes, that is really going to.

>> MR. MORGAN: Continuing to the west here?

>> CHAIR KELLUM: Yeah, we can try, I'm kind of second guessing it though.

>> MR. MORGAN: That is 12000 over and there is the demographics.

>> COMMISSIONER KELLOM: Taking what is that harmony village and putting it into 15.

>> MR. MORGAN: These two into 15 or?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

Start with Barone.

>> MR. MORGAN: Okay, I'm going to undo the last one.

I don't think that is intentional.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you.

The matrix does it auto populate when a percentage is a concern because 21 got on there and it wasn't on there before at least on my screen it did not appear.

Maybe I made that up.

Disregard, John with 21 down there before and it appeared as a District.

See it disappeared again.

Maybe it's just the area of the map you're working on.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: It's the view setting.

It says show Districts in the view so when 21 is in the view that is when it shows up.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Thank you Commissioner Rothorn I just wanted to make sure I was not seeing things.

Okay, so what are we thinking, Bruce?

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: We are thinking that that's also good direction to go, John could you stop up a little bit on the map? Just so I can see what is below 15?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: That little.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: Yes, one of the things I can foresee is that 15 perhaps there may be some adjustments that are made as 15 is there may be some adjustments that are made with three because there is no BVAP issue in three and I'm not suggesting doing that now.

I'm just kind of thinking a few steps ahead.

But the numbers that we have been working on and the considerations we have been looking at including the neighborhoods I think there has been also just like with our prior District there has been an improvement so I think that the refinement are headed from compliant perspective are moving in a good direction.

And as the other districts are looked at, I'm wondering that three may be a place that can be useful as well from a compliance standpoint. But, Commissioner Kellom, I think what has -- what you have done goes in the direction we were aiming for.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: That is weird what you are hovering.

>> MR. MORGAN: It's not contiguous at the moment and would you like to take this into 15?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So to me it looks like we are reaching so are we not supposed to reach for not population but for minority population.

Or.

>> MR. BRUCE ADELSON: I apologize and we are both hidden behind the screen and, I'm sorry, but you are right.

It's not a contiguous part of 14 as John mentioned so I think that will be that is a relatively easy fix from a contiguity standpoint.

The population adjustments I think have moved positively and that contiguity and the reach as I agree and talk about it with other districts is something that to look at further. But since 15 and 17 will also need some attention that I suspect that that will, not I suspect, that will be resolved as we move forward, is that how does that sound?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Mr. Morgan, then we have to stop mapping.

>> MR. MORGAN: Commissioner Kellom said take harmony village in 15.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I will do this and stop now we will move into new business and we will move forward with agenda item 6A new business and I will ask General Counsel Pastula to present the draft amended rules of procedure.

Please proceed General Counsel?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Thank you so much Madam Chair.

So the draft rules that were on the agenda for Monday for the three day in notice were discussed at that time.

Commissioner Lett and yourself and Commissioner Orton had raised some proposed modifications.

Those were to be sent to you yesterday but unfortunately, I was in meetings until 8:00 at night or later so those were circulated today and this agenda item could be shifted to the calendar tomorrow.

I would like to highlight that any changes between draft one and draft two are highlighted in yellow and have a comment bubble, are highlighted in yellow and all the ones related to Commissioner S have the comment bubble with the associated Commissioner that raised it.

So again there were very few modifications raised if any other Commissioners had additional comments or changes they wanted I would be happy to entertain those.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you General Counsel.

Okay, so at this point we will move on to agenda item 6B contract without objection I will ask our communication and Outreach Director to provide information please proceed Mr. Woods.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Thank you Chairperson Szetela and members of the Commission.

You received with your meeting packet a proposal from good marketing.

According to our rules and procedure the MICRC may participate in existing State of Michigan contract or procurement for services or goods, good marketing is an existing State of Michigan contract.

We will be using them as you notice the four deliverables.

One of the things that's a little bit different from the previous is we would want to make sure we have good communication strategy for potential lawsuits or any potential crisis. That might take place.

We will have some training with regard to crisis.

Communication.

Most of the information you see deals with the public hearings that we have.

And so instead of having these separate contracts that we had before we now have everything in one.

And that will just make it a lot easier for coordination purposes and everything else with regard to communication and outreach and as a result I seek your approval for this resolution.

>> CHAIR SZETELA:

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you, Director Woods.

Is there Commissioner Lange? Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I have a question.

And I read it the other day and I'm hoping I read the right thing did I see something in there where there would not be promotion of the hearings for Marquette and Gaylord? Or something to that effect or was I looking at a different.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: They will not be in attendance in Marquette and Gaylord. Commissioner Lange to control the costs but they will definitely be promotional. So in other words we are not paying for them to drive mileage what have you to come to Marquette and Gaylord but they will definitely be promotion.

That was consistent with what we did at the last one.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: What do they do at the hearings though if they are not going to those what particular things do they offer?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: They handle the press and usually have press conferences so in this particular case we will have things at 4:30 and so instead of helping to coordinate that I would do that along with existing staff so that we are maximizing our funds.

Because of the distance between Marquette and Gaylord so that's the reason. But they help out with press.

They coordinate interviews, you know all of that stuff that happens at each of our existing public hearings they would take care of that at the for the second round of public hearings.

And because of the population it's not as big, the media is not as big in Gaylord and Marquette so it's just something I can handle so we can maximize the value of the contract.

I'm sorry for the Chair to Commissioner Lange did I answer your questions?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Sorry, I muted too quick. Yes, you did, thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Any other thoughts on this? I have a question.

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Does this contract if we and the number of hearings we have, will that negatively -- is there a reason we shouldn't approve this because we might and the number of hearings we have?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Contract is really based upon ours so it will take care of itself.

You have to understand it might not be that much because it will be pretty much the same framework when you do your press releases it's just going to change the location but it's just minimal change so I don't want you to think it will be a huge savings but there will be an hour's reduction.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: And the contract is ours like you said so okay. So seeing no other comments I'm wondering to entertain a motion to approve the promotional consultant contract as in 2021.09.08 Commissioner Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'll put a motion forward to approve it.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Thank you Commissioner Clark.

Do we have a second.

Second from Commissioner Lett.

Is there any discussion or further debate on the motion to approve the promotional consultant contract? Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I know there was talk of a documentary earlier, does this include anything to do with that?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: That would be up to the Commission it's a possibility because it's built in but it does not necessarily mean we have to do it, we have to necessarily do that.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: What do you mean it's built in.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: We have video production services is a part of that contract.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: So if we don't use it, we just don't pay for that.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Correct.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: So video services has to do with that in the contract?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: It can be included for that yes.

It's built in.

But that would be at the direction of the Commission.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: That's not the sole purpose for it though.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Correct.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I'm hearing there are options, very good just like the number it's number of hours, yeah.

So.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: If we don't use it, we don't have to pay it.

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>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Very good thank you Director Woods so there is a motion from Chair excuse me from Commissioner Clark and second from Commissioner Lett. Is there any further debate or discussion before we take a vote? All right hearing none, hearing that we are okay all in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Could you restate the motion I'm sorry.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Motion to approve the promotional consultant contract addendum that is 2021.09.08.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed raise your hand and say nay.

One nay.

And do we is there anybody that's not that I can't see on screen Secretary of State.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Erin Wagner.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I did not get a vote for Commissioner Wagner, please.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Kellom is right there.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Is that a nay is that correct Commissioner Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Yes, it is.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Chair Kellom, can you clarify your vote please.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: I voted aye.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Thank you.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: So I think we have Szetela 13.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: 11-2 so the ayes prevail and I will hand it back to Chair Szetela.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Thank you, Edward. Anything else before we move on?

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: No but thank you very much.

Appreciate the support and we will just keep rolling.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We don't have meeting minutes to approve today and no staff report.

Without objection I will ask Sarah Reinhardt from the Michigan Department of State if she has a report.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: No report thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

Correspondence received in advance of our meeting today is provided along with written public comments to the Commissioners in our meeting materials it's my understanding that there are no future agenda items to share at this time.

Are this any announcements? All right hearing none we have 20 more minutes do we want to try to map some more Commissioner Lett, I see you have a hand up.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yeah, could we return to the schedule? I have several some more information that we have been working only this afternoon and would like to

discuss that considering our discussion we had this morning and the timeframes that we are faced with sed Szetela sure go ahead.

You have the floor Commissioner Lett.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Thank you.

We have when I say we the Secretary of State, the department has checked with the MSU and they are available for sure next week Monday Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

If we wanted to meet Thursday and Friday, we would have to find a new location.

Certainly a possibility might be the Radisson.

They have sufficient space down there.

There are certainly other places, the Lansing center in addition.

You don't have to take the whole ballroom but they have other meeting areas in addition.

So I think we could find a spot.

In addition to that so that would be a proposal part of the proposal would be to meet from October the 4th through the 8th with the possibility of the next week the 11th and the 12.

Depending on how we are doing.

Again, if we had to move and the Radisson was available it might work out by staying there and using that as a location.

The second part of my report here that I'm doing any way would be on October 18th, to start five public hearings.

Reducing that down so that we have more time to complete our necessary adjustments to our maps.

I think from our experience today we can see this is going to take a while.

If we did five public hearings anticipating October 18th is a start date through the 26th, we would have to work with Mr. Woods and figure out where we were going to be when.

That would allow us to come back and meet October 27th through the 29th and November 1st through the 5th Lansing Detroit wherever we wanted to for completing the maps and necessary adjustments after our five required public meetings.

That would then leave from after the 5th until November 14th in which to allow the mappers and the state to put together the necessary information to publish on the 15th for the 45 day required publication.

We would then vote on December 30.

So that is a rather long recitation of my motion.

And I would be happy to repeat it and discuss it if I have a second.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: That I think would be needed.

I think we will need a repeat on all of that.

So my understanding because I was not here and one second Commissioner Orton this morning is we already approved Monday and Tuesday of next week from what time to what time?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: We had 9-5 because we didn't know if it would be available after that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: So we did approve 9-5 already or we left the time open.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: We were going to check on the time. We checked on the time they are available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9-8.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: 9-8.

So the first part as I understand it of your motion is to, you're moving to set the meeting times from 9-8 Monday I'm sorry Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at MSU next week is that the first part?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Apologies on the first day we recommend a start time of 10:00 a.m. to allow AV to fully set up. However on subsequent days as long as they are in the same facility 9:00 a.m. start time is appropriate.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: With that caveat Monday being 10:00, 10 start so the first part of the motion number one I'll go right down number one October the 4th through the 8th Monday starting at 10:00 the rest of the week at 9 going to 8 if necessary.

We may flag out by 6:00.

Now that is assuming we can find another place so I'm sure that Mr. Woods with his magic reservation system would be able to locate a place for us.

And meeting the next week the 11th and the 12th same scenario 11 would be at 10, the 12th at 9:00.

So that is number one.

On my multi part motion.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: All set? Lett.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: October 18 we start the five public hearings.

Those would go through the 26 however the schedule could be arranged.

There are dates set now in looking at the calendar, we are meeting at TCF center

Thursday after that is after the 26th, I mean it would make sense for me to meet at TCF but before so swap out something before.

I'm not saying to do that, it's not part of the motion.

It would just be we would have to decide on where we are going to be, where we are going to go.

So that is number two.

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Third part is we meet back and I put Lansing but it can be Detroit or wherever, October 27, 28 and 29.

Same scenario, 10:00 on the first day and 9:00 on the rest and November 1st through the fifth.

Again if necessary and I'm anticipating it's probably going to be necessary.

Unless we really get fast and good.

That really does it.

Number four is we publish by November 14 and vote on December 30 and that is the reason are the dates are driving that.

We do have an option for weekends if we want to use them.

The state can do that for us.

So that's not part of my motion but it would be part of something that we could consider as we make headway down this.

Do I have a second?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Do we have a second Commissioner Witjes is a second. Is there any discussion or debate on the motion and Erin please speak up if you have anything because I can't sow your hand, Commissioner Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: I'm against cutting the hearings and yesterday I said I would support it but there is public comment on the portal and they have already been advertised and I guess my thoughts on it have changed and I feel like it would be a complete slap in the face to people who were planning on coming in person.

So can't go for cutting the hearings at this point.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Any other discussion or debate?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Any others.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: I'm wondering if our communications director has any opinion about you know potentially cutting the hearings or not.

And on the potential ramifications that might have since you're the professional on the topic.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: I think what you are hearing is getting the process done right versus the PR.

And I think getting the process done right is a higher priority.

Because at the end of the day we want the maps to be approved.

And so really the deference goes to the Commission.

And what is in the best interests in terms of getting this process done.

I will take care of whatever the Commission decides and do my job because that's my responsibility.

But at the end of the day the higher priority is making sure that the maps are approved and follow the 7 redistricting criteria.

Thank you.

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>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you, Mr. Woods. Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Well, I think Mr. Woods kind of said it, but like I said yesterday I think with the citizens really care about is they have good maps for the next ten years and we need to do everything we can to give them that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Rothhorn?

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: I'll just acknowledge what Steve said, that it was it's slow.

And we are new at this.

Everybody is new at it but we need to give ourselves a time and today was a great example of it.

Yeah, we need the time.

And yeah, I'm in favor of it, I'm in favor of the motion.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Eid again?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Just one question, I think I heard you reference November 14th for.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: November 14 published by November 14 so we have a 45 day period.

We would vote then on the 30th of December.

That is required, 45 day publication is required.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: No I understand the 45 days is required.

I thought that is why we previously identified November 5th as the date to do that.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Well we are stopping on November 5th so the state and the mappers can put them together to publish.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: There is back end work that has to be done once we ap moved the maps and compiling it and loading it and getting up and the time it takes for the IT department to say this.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: This would not change that.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: No.

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Got you thank you.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Orton and then Commissioner Lange.

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON:

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Lange did you have a question?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Sorry I thought you called on Commissioner Orton.

I have one last question if you are talking about cutting hearings, I would like to know what hearings you plan on cutting before it's voted on.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Have you given that any thought Commissioner Lett or have we given it any thought.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I mean I've looked at it and given thoughts.

We are going to.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I thought we had a contract with Gaylord already is that accurate? Yes so, I think.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: That is accurate.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: We are committed to Gaylord Commissioner Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: I think we should just defer that to Edward and he chooses which ones we can make.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Commissioner Szetela through the Chair to Commissioner Orton I think I need to bring back a recommendation for the Commission. And I will do that tonight so you can have it in the morning.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you.

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: I looked at the schedules this are some natural ones that fit into that.

But I'm not aware of what's going on with Gaylord if it's committed, we may be stuck with it.

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Madam Chair Commissioner Wagner's hand is up I don't think you can see it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I can't see her thank you Commissioner Lange for letting me know.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Thank you Madam Chair.
Hang on I've got some reverberation going on.
I agree with.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Commissioner Wagner it looks like you accidentally muted.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: Can you hear me now.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Yes, we can hear you.

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: I agree with -- I don't think we should eliminate any meetings and my question would be to Director Woods on how many contracts we actually have.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I believe she said she doesn't think we should eliminate any meetings, is that accurate? Okay, and she asked Commissioner or Edward Woods how many contracts we have signed.
Yes.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: To Commissioner Wagner through the Chair we only have one contract signed and that is with Gaylord.
With regards to that.

We also have a hotel contract signed with regards to the courtyard at Lansing. Those are the two contracts I'm aware of unless I'm missing anything.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: All right.

>> MR. EDWARD WOODS: Hold only I got to see where we are with the Marquette hotel but I don't think I set that but let me check.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Madam Chair.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes, General Counsel.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Also in response to Commissioner Wagner's question in full agreement with now you have me doing it with Mr. Woods with Director Woods the only events center contract actually the only contract I've reviewed for the second round is again the Gaylord contract. So just waiting direction from the Commission.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Okay seeing no, Commissioner Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Just out of curiosity you know, the saying goes right that contracts were meant to be broken.

Now I'm no lawyer but what would the potential ramifications be if we chose to you know take out that one instead of like the UP one or? We have nine to bring it down to five, right, so even though we have a contract I don't know if any of them should be necessarily off the table.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I will leave the detailed analysis to General Counsel but typically with an event contract of that nature you are typically commits to pay what fees you are going to pay as part of the contract in the industry and I would be surprised if that deviated in any way from that and General Counsel knows the contract and certainly if you need time to look at it and get back to us that is perfectly fine as well. We don't want to put you on the spot.

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: Cancellation of an entire event it is a breach. Between 44 days and date of arrival is 100% of the hotel room revenue and it is structured.

So I would prefer to put it in writing for the Commission rather than just talk through it. Particularly since there is a motion pending.

I don't want to get the Commission up but I would be very happy to put the terms that are in the contract that has already been executed again just the one for Gaylord is the only one that has been executed.

So I would be happy to do that if the Commission requests it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: And I would also point out even if we ended up decide not to go to Gaylord and we still had to pay that cost we originally budgeted to go to nine hearings and if we only going to five, then it may be a sunk cost. But I don't -- budgetary it has been accounted for and if we have better maps, we may have to eat the cost and be okay with it.

All right are we ready to vote guys? Department of State I'm going to ask for a roll call on this one please.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Absolutely. Please support the motion with a "Yes" or "No."

I will try to briefly restate the motion and Commission Lett please let me know if this is accurate.

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To have meetings October 4 through the 8th with the first day starting at 10:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. and subsequent days starting 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and having meeting October 11 and 12 the first day starting 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and subsequent days 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. October 18 through the 26th we will host five public hearings across the state.

October 27th through November 5 deliberations and a vote.

November 14th the publication to begin 45 days of public comment is that accurate?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: That's accurate.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Please indicate your support of the motion with a yes or a no when I call on you, I will call on Commissioners in alphabetical order starting with MC Rothhorn.

>> VICE CHAIR ROTHORN: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rebecca Szetela?

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Janice Vallette?

>> COMMISSIONER VALLETTE: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Erin Wagner?

>> COMMISSIONER WAGNER: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Richard Weiss?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISS: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Dustin Witjes?

>> COMMISSIONER WITJES: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Doug Clark?

>> COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Juanita Curry?

>> COMMISSIONER CURRY: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Anthony Eid?

>> COMMISSIONER EID: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Brittini Kellom?

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Rhonda Lange?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: No.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Steve Lett?

>> COMMISSIONER LETT: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: Cynthia Orton?

>> COMMISSIONER ORTON: Yes.

>> MS. SARAH REINHARDT: By a vote of 11 yes to two no, the motion carries.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Thank you Sarah Reinhardt okay any other items to discuss at this time? As items on the agenda are completed and the we have for further business we have a motion to adjourn.

So moved.

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Commission Witjes seconded by Commissioner Rothhorn.

All in favor please raise your hand and say aye.

All opposed please raise your hand and say nay.

I'm sorry?

>> MS. JULIANNE PASTULA: I didn't see it.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: I didn't either so Commissioner Curry, Kellom, Lange and Wagner can you indicate your vote on the motion to adjourn?

>> COMMISSIONER LANGE: Yes.

>> CHAIR KELLOM: Aye.

>> CHAIR SZETELA: Commissioner Curry? I heard Erin so everyone is an aye the ayes prevail and the motion is adopted and the meeting is adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Thank you everybody and we will see you back in an hour.