

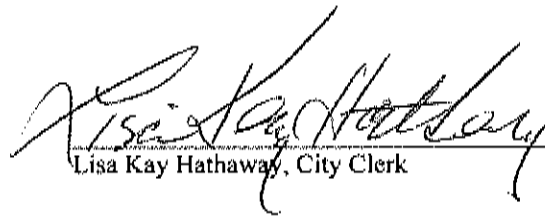
Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Brown, Bryant, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Vaughn

No: None

Absent: Gafa

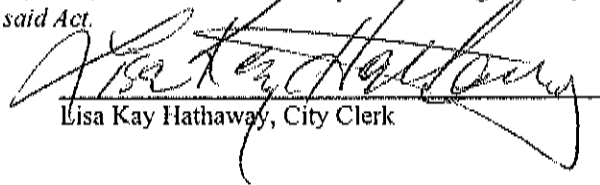
RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.



Lisa Kay Hathaway, City Clerk

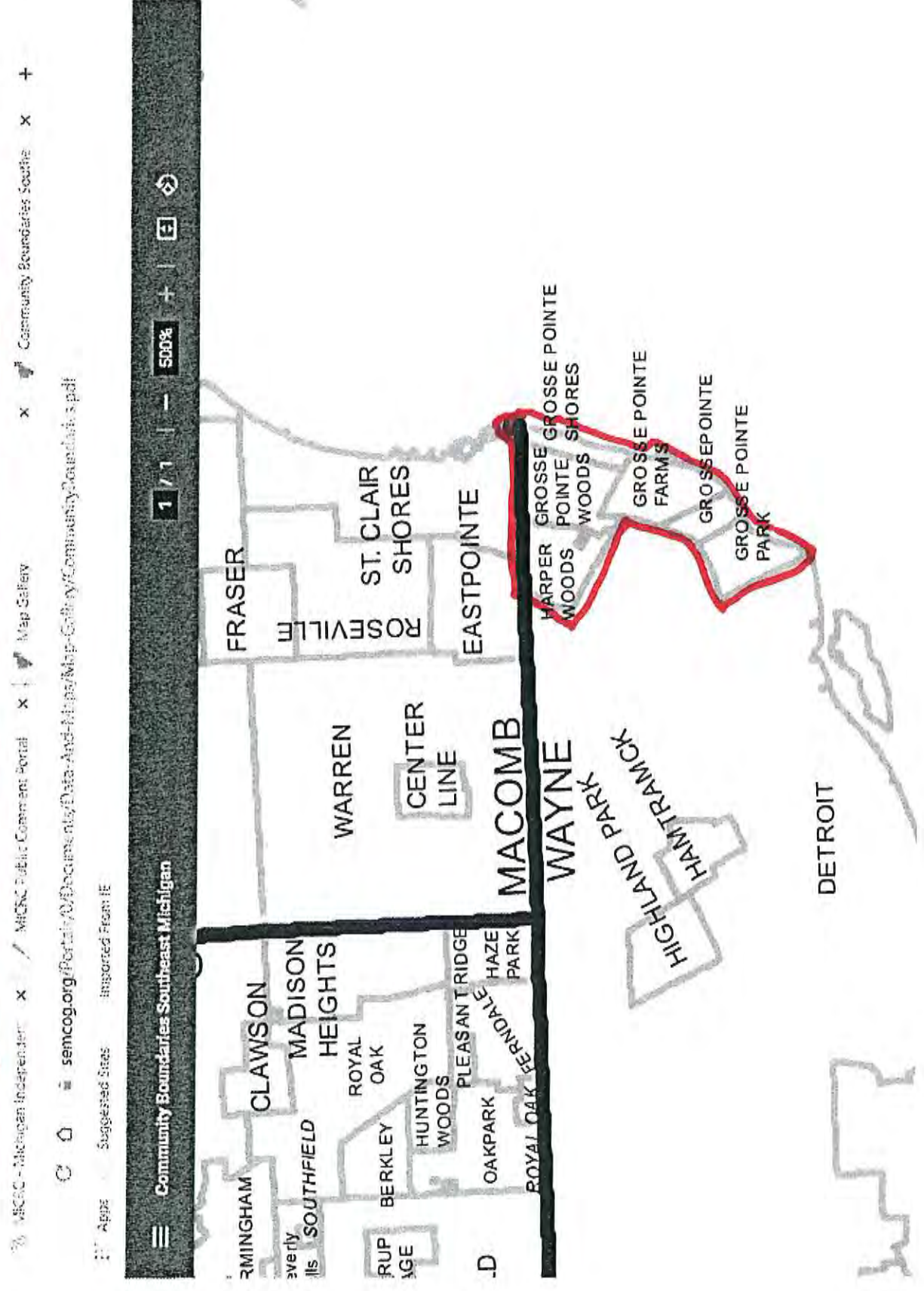
CERTIFICATION

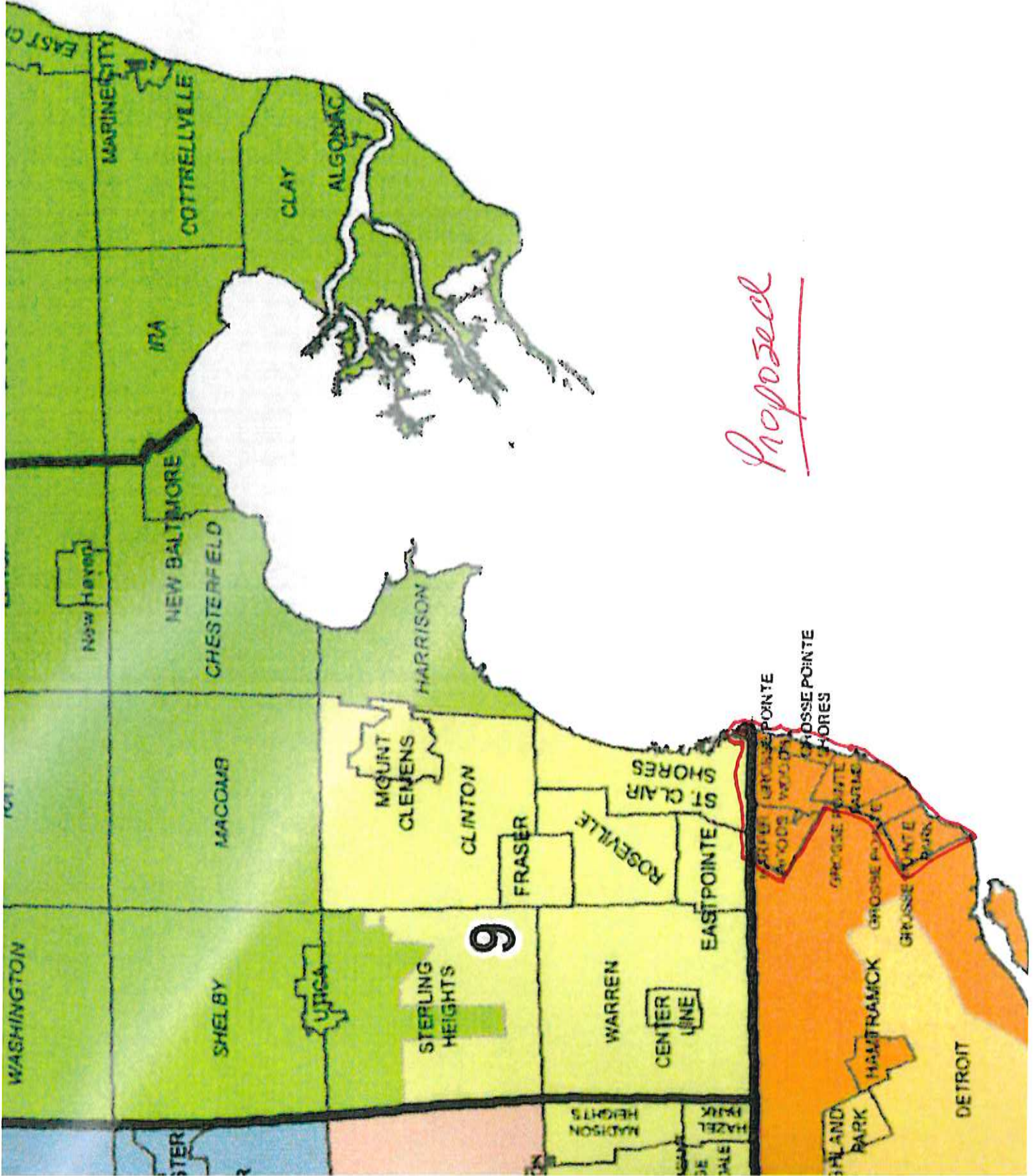
I, Lisa Kay Hathaway, City Clerk of the City of Grosse Pointe Woods, do hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Council on August 16, 2021, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be, or have been, made available as required by said Act.



Lisa Kay Hathaway, City Clerk

Propose Keeping all 5 Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods in one district.

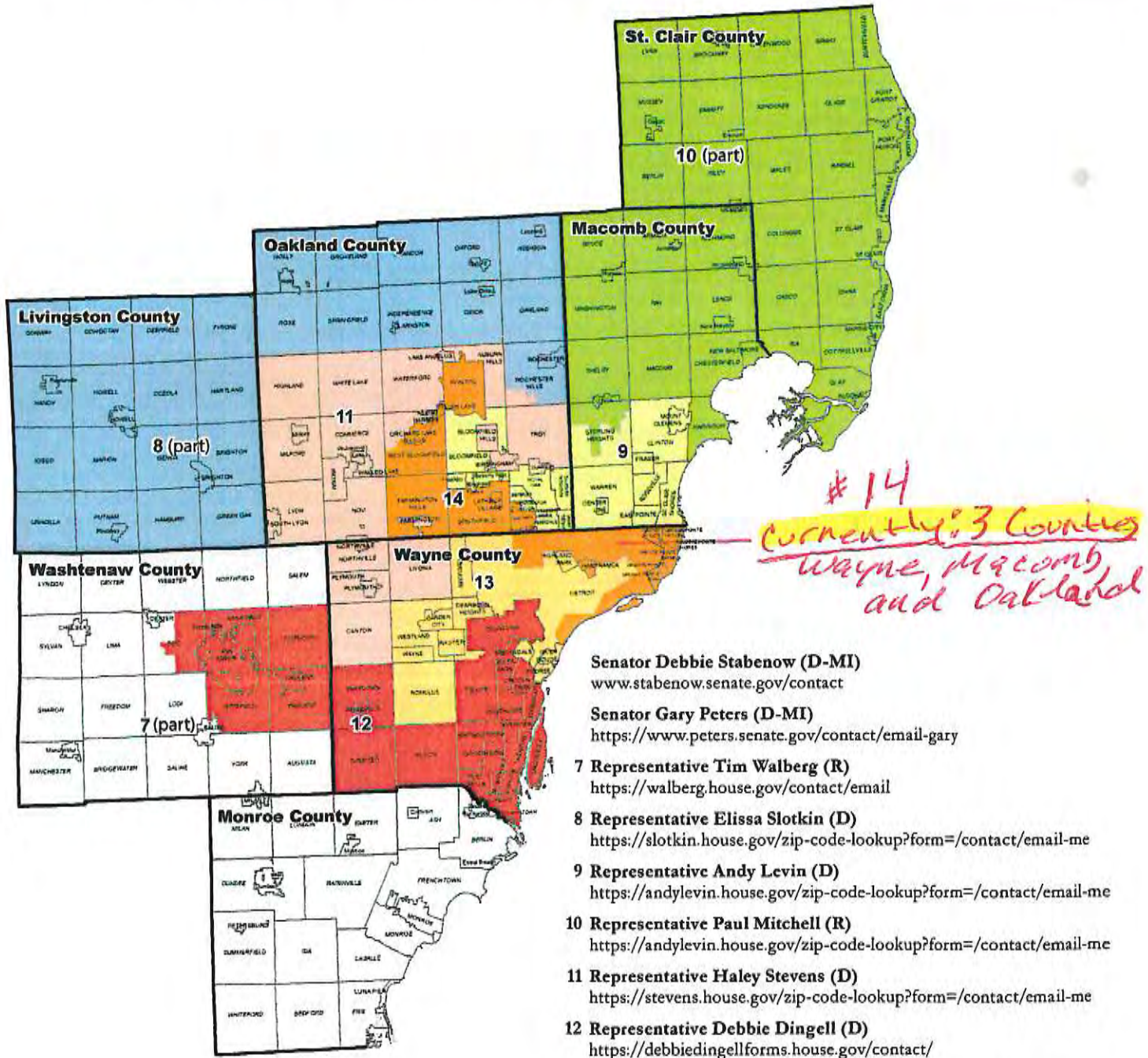




Proposed

9

U.S. Congressional Districts ★ ★



*#14
 Currently 3 Counties
 Wayne, Macomb,
 and Oakland*



MUSKEGON RIVER WATERSHED ASSEMBLY (MRWA)

@ Ferris State University
1009 Campus Drive, JOH 200
Big Rapids, MI 49307-2280
Phone: (231) 591-2324 Fax: (231) 591-2306
E-mail: mrwa@ferris.edu Website: www.mrwa.org

September 7, 2021

Dear Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission,

This public comment is written in support of Newaygo County and Muskegon County being considered as communities of interest because of their shared natural resources, and the impact that outdoor tourism has on the economies of both counties.

The Muskegon River is a critical natural resource that flows southwesterly through Newaygo and Muskegon counties, and the river eventually empties into Muskegon Lake. The Muskegon River supports educational, scientific, and conservation initiatives. The residents of both Muskegon County and Newaygo County are impacted both culturally and economically by the preservation, protection, restoration, and sustainable use of the Muskegon River.

The Muskegon River supports a variety of outdoor activities that contribute to the economy of both counties. The Muskegon River is Michigan's second largest river, and there has been a large increase in tourism from kayakers and canoers paddling the river. The river also is home to several shoreline parks, campgrounds, cabins and inns that attract outdoor enthusiasts from across the state.

The Muskegon State Game Area is an 8,411-acre section of land which overlays the Muskegon River, and spans both Muskegon and Newaygo counties. There is an abundance of wildlife in the area, including otters, waterfowl, and white-tailed deer. Hunting is popular in the forested areas of the state game area and hunting also contributes to the economies of Newaygo and Muskegon counties.

I urge the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to consider the shared economic and environmental interests of Newaygo and Muskegon counties when considering new district maps. I believe it is vital that the commission maintain the shared interests of these counties, so the residents of these counties are properly represented in the Michigan Legislature.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George K. Heartwell", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

George K. Heartwell
MRWA Board Member
Mayor of Grand Rapids (2004-2015)
Cell: (616) 443-2193
gkheartwell@gmail.com

CANNER, CANNER & ROWADY, P.C.

24423 Southfield Road, Suite 200 · Southfield, MI 48075 · 248.552.0400 · Fax: 248.206.0101

MICHAEL L. ROWADY

Michigan Independent Citizens
Redistricting Commission
PO Box 30318
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: LGBTQ Communities of Interest

Dear Commissioners:

I am a Ferndale, Michigan resident, attorney and Chairman Emeritus of Equality Michigan, the largest political advocacy organization for the LGBTQ community in Michigan. I am writing because I am concerned about our future representation, especially in the Michigan Legislature as you consider drawing our legislative lines. I am aware you will soon be starting map out our new State Senate districts for Southern Oakland County.

I believe our Senate district in southern Oakland County should be comprised of the cities of Southfield, Huntington Woods, Ferndale, Pleasant Ridge, and Hazel Park. These cities are central to Michigan's LGBTQ community, and, notably, each has openly-LGBTQ local elected officials on the City Council-level representing our interests as a minority population, in addition to the organizations and advocates that call southern Oakland County home. This demonstrates that these cities are bonded as an LGBTQ communities of interest. Much of the changes in the culture of Michigan regarding more acceptance of the LGBTQ community are because of this representation, from Southfield to Hazel Park and cities in between. I along with our community leaders have worked with key officials in southern Oakland County, including in the State Senate, where we have a voice for the first time in Michigan history an LGBTQ voices.

We have made much progress at the state level through our community's representation in our State Senate district, from the first-ever adopted LGBTQ Pride Month Resolution, to bipartisan support for amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include LGBTQ discrimination protections. Accordingly, I would strongly encourage the Commission to consider a state senate district that includes Southfield, Ferndale, Pleasant Ridge, Hazel Park and Huntington Woods.

Thank you in advance for your thorough consideration of our communities' interests.

Very sincerely yours,



Michael L. Rowady, Esq.

Cover Letter for State Senate Submission

Dear Commissioners,

I was a fellow applicant to the commissioner pool, equally committed to the cause of Fair Districts in Michigan. This submission is an honest effort to draw a State Senate map subject to the same guidelines and priorities laid out for you in the Michigan Constitution:

- Equality of population and compliance with federal law
- Contiguity
- Protection of communities of interest
- Avoidance of partisan disproportionality
- No consideration for incumbents
- Respect for county and municipal boundaries
- Reasonable compactness

I gave particular attention to priority four while still giving full diligence to the items above it. As you may already be discovering, the avoidance of partisan disproportionality is a difficult task given our contemporary political environment. It will require a careful and specific focus on your part in order to fulfill this priority. This proposed plan has very low levels of partisan bias – it favors Republicans by only about two percent on two of the metrics your consultant recommended to you.

In full disclosure: I applied as a Democratic commissioner. I do not believe that I allowed my own partisan preferences to unduly persuade me, but I will let you be the judge of that.

Finally, I would like to ask that you review my proposed District 7 in particular. I believe that it brings together an important community of interest across the Wayne-Washtenaw border that the commission might otherwise miss.

Sincerely,
Corey Mason
Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan

Principles and Priorities

I am a longtime political enthusiast with a graduate-level education in political science and a genuine enjoyment of electoral cartography. That is to say that I am a nerd who has thought a lot about this stuff. I'd like to start with a short summary of my approach to district-drawing and my assessment and use of the Constitutional priorities guiding the commission.

My approach to district-drawing is fundamentally iterative and collaborative. The districts I'm presenting are the result of dozens of hours of drawing and redrawing and are informed by the perspectives of a number of other plans I've reviewed. I would encourage the commission to be diligent in trying and considering a variety of approaches to the problems of districting-drawing -- in my experience, the first few maps attempted for any given purpose will benefit greatly from synthesizing a variety of ideas and from iterative refinement.

With regards to the Constitutional priorities of the commission:

Equality of population and compliance with federal law

Version 9.6 of the commission's *Mapping Process and Procedures* gives a maximum population deviation of +/- 5% for state legislative districts (that is, a 10% range from the smallest to the largest districts by population). This gives mapmakers flexibility to protect other important priorities like the ones in the Michigan Constitution.

I made full use of this flexibility, with a net deviation of 9.69%. This deviation was never used for the purposes of partisan proportionality (for example, making one party's districts systematically larger than the others.) It was instead used to comply with the municipal boundary priority.

Compliance with federal law regarding minority voting rights was at the forefront of my mind in drawing, especially in metro Detroit. Analyzing a map for Voting Rights Act ("VRA") compliance requires attorneys, but this is an honest lay effort to protect minority voting rights.

Contiguity

All districts are contiguous by land, except District 37 which must cross the Straits of Mackinac for population equality.

Protections of communities of interest and avoidance of partisan disproportionality

I am going to discuss these two elements together because they are at the heart of what Fair Districts are all about -- these two elements are what is truly new about redistricting in Michigan this cycle. If the commission does not succeed at implementing both of these priorities, then I think it will have failed to carry out the vision of Fair Districts.

Gerrymandering is bad for a variety of reasons, but the two most important are covered by these priorities. Gerrymandering frequently unites very disparate regions for partisan advantage. It also, by definition, is an attempt to lock in partisan advantage over and against the collective will of the voters.

Michigan's current map, from the 2010 redistricting cycle, exemplifies both of these tendencies. It ignores communities of interest by separating urban areas from each other, drowning them with rural voters. (See current districts 16, 19 and 31, which were intended to smother any possibility of Democratic senators from Jackson, Battle Creek, and Bay City, respectively.) It also locked in an enduring Republican majority, despite the fact the Democratic state senate candidates have frequently won more votes in the statewide aggregate.

(In fact, Republican gerrymanders have locked up the state legislature for two decades, despite the fact that Michigan has been a competitive-to-Democratic leaning state in statewide elections during that time period.)

It is important to note that these two priorities cover different areas of analysis. Communities of interest are analyzed on a district-by-district basis; partisan proportionality is analyzed on a statewide level. Giving both of these priorities the attention they deserve will require a careful interplay of consideration of both individual districts and the overall plan.

Communities of interest are real and important. The commission has done an admirable job in soliciting and reviewing public comment to help it understand how voters view their communities. However, there will be some significant hindrances in being able to analyze how well the commission fulfilled this priority. Communities of interest are inherently subjective, amorphous, and qualitative; and it will be difficult to analyze the commission's success at protecting them.

This is in no way to undermine the importance the commission should place on communities of interest. It is simply to recognize that measuring the commission's success in this area will ultimately be ambiguous.

By contrast, partisan proportionality is quantitative and easily determined. You will be able to know whether you succeeded or failed at this task. I sincerely hope that the commission is dedicated to succeeding at implementing this priority.

A side note on communities of interest: because communities of interest are inherently subjective and because I did not have access to all of the commission's testimony and public comment, I tried to think of other ways of operationalizing the concept when working on this map. One item that I considered very strongly was internal transportation links. A number of the districts presented are attempts to link communities along major roads and highways. Transportation links are fundamental to the creation of community - social and commercial opportunities exist along major arterials that enable community. Districts 7, 15, and 22 are particularly marked by this thinking.

No consideration for incumbents

No consideration for incumbents was given when drawing the maps. I am broadly unfamiliar with where state senators live, and term limits mean that the map drawn this cycle will outlive all current incumbents anyway.

Respect for County and Municipal Boundaries

From my perspective, this priority has two functions. First, it makes it easier to determine who your legislator is. "Oh, you live in Westland. Your senator is _____." Second, it eases election administration by not requiring the local governments that run elections to manage multiple ballots. (As a Plymouth Township poll-worker for the past five years, I am very sensitive to this aspect.)

The proposed map is extremely respectful of municipal boundaries. Only Detroit, Sterling Heights, and Grand Rapids were split. Detroit must be split because it is so large. Sterling Heights is surrounded by other high population cities and was the most convenient to be split for population equality. Grand Rapids was split for partisan proportionality, which is explained when describing its two districts.

I usually prioritized not splitting municipalities over not splitting counties when the two were in conflict. In most cases, the opposite choice could be made without harm to the map.

The most difficult element of this provision is the number of cities that have unannexed land within them. The vast majority of my municipal splits come either from this or from a municipality crossing county lines.

Reasonable compactness

Compactness is normally a high priority in discussing redistricting reform. Gerrymandering is often mocked by showing highly contorted districts. But the framers of the Fair Districts Amendment placed it last among the priorities for the commission. With that in mind, I strove to maintain reasonable compactness where it did not hinder higher priorities. The application I used gave the overall plan a 77% compactness score.

It is important to note that compactness will tend to advantage the Republican party in our contemporary political environment. Democratic voters tend to cluster in urban areas, which the unwary mapmaker can then unintentionally pack in highly Democratic districts. Republicans then win many more suburban and rural seats with small but durable majorities.

Finally, I would like to note a priority that isn't presented -- aesthetics. Districts that "look nice" are excellent when feasible, but aesthetic considerations should never hinder the commission's dedication to its Constitutional duties.

Methods and Terminology

My application of choice for redistricting projects is Dave's Redistricting App ("DRA").

Due to my commitment to the Constitutional priority of partisan proportionality, I drew all maps with partisan data visible (unlike the commission's multi-stage process.)

Descriptions of political competitiveness are based on DRA's "Composite 2016-2020" data, which averages the results of the following contests:

- 2016 US President
- 2018 US Senator
- 2018 Michigan Governor
- 2018 Michigan Attorney General
- 2020 US President
- 2020 US Senator

I use four descriptions of competitiveness based on this average.

- Highly competitive - neither party received more than 52.5% of the averaged vote
- Competitive with a (Republic/Democratic) lean - one party won between 52.5% and 55% of the averaged vote
- Strongly (Republican/Democratic) - one party won between 55% and 60% of the averaged vote
- Safe (Republican/Democratic) - one party won more than 60% of the averaged vote

Note that six elections consist of a highly competitive race won by Republicans (2016 president), a competitive race won by Democrats (2018 Michigan Governor) and four highly competitive races won by Democrats (the rest.) A plan that is not disproportionately partisan in accordance with the Constitution should, when analyzed with this dataset, result in control of the State Senate resting on highly competitive districts, but with a small majority of seats won by Democrats. The presented map does that, showing a 21-17 Democratic majority and with a 100% proportionality rating in DRA's analytics. Control of the Senate (again, analyzed with this data set) would rest on District 32, a highly competitive district covering the Tri-Cities.

I also analyzed this map via Campaign Legal Center's PlanScore system. PlanScore uses four tests to assess the partisan proportionality of a plan: partisan efficiency, declination, partisan bias, and mean-median difference.

PlanScore rated the plan as having very low measures of bias.

- Partisan efficiency: 1.9% in favor of the Republican Party
- Declination: .09 in favor of the Republican Party
- Partisan bias: 2.5% in favor of the Republican Party
- Mean-median difference: 0.9% in favor of the Republican Party

Note that the first and last of these metrics are ones recommended to you by Dr. Handley.

The PlanScore analysis is available here:

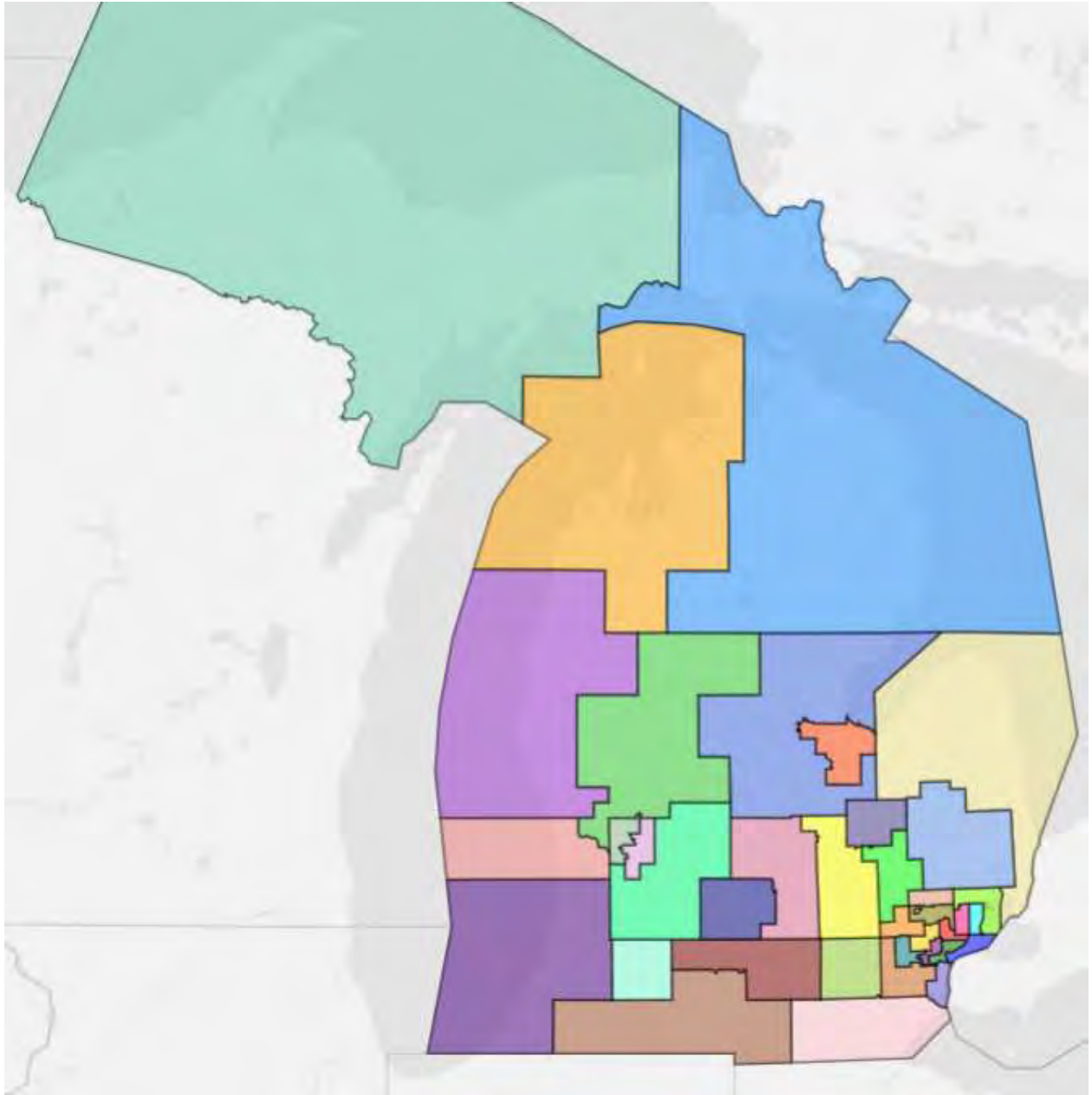
<https://planscore.campaignlegal.org/plan.html?20210908T163922.934916241Z>

Plan Overview

The full map is available at

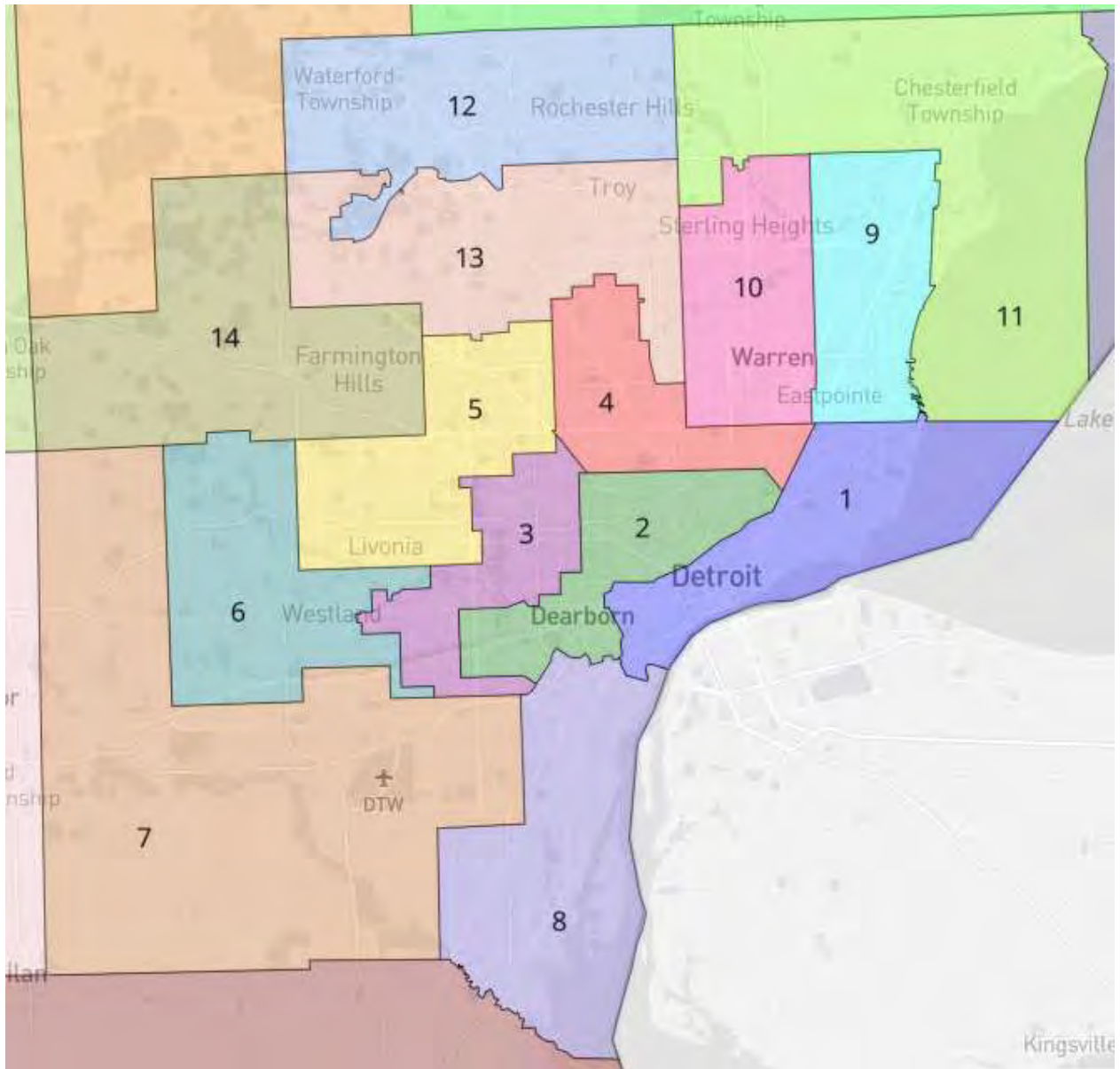
<https://davesredistricting.org/join/c7c24994-fc64-4d9b-be60-5ba8bca918b0>.

Overview map without county boundaries

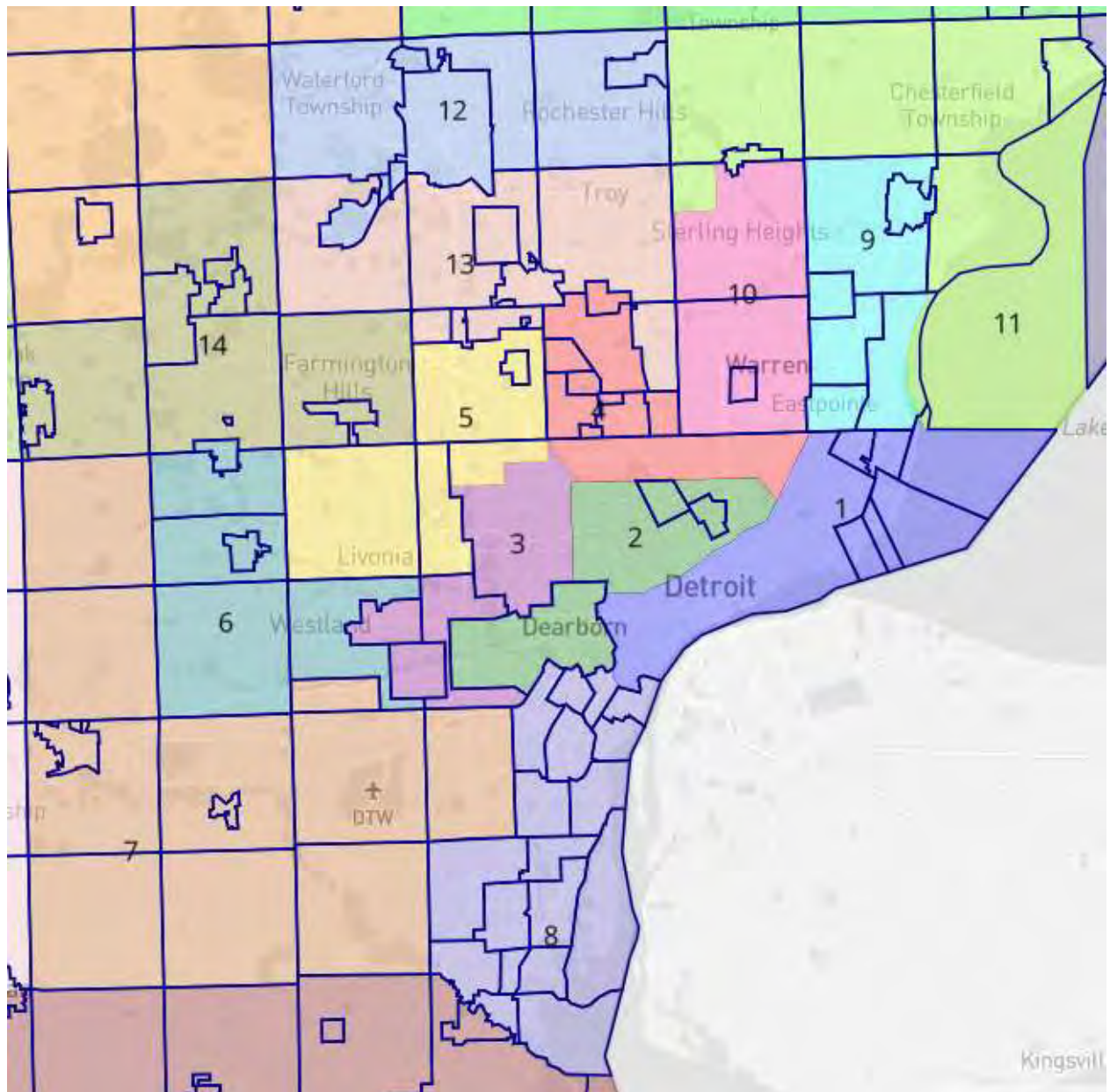


Metro Detroit

Overview map without municipal boundaries



Overview map with municipal boundaries



Districts 1 through 14 are located in the core urban and suburban portions of Metro Detroit: all of Wayne County along with southern Oakland and Macomb. One district extends into eastern Washtenaw.

Detroit-based districts: My first consideration was how to maintain five majority-minority districts that protect African-American voting rights in compliance with the VRA. With Detroit's continued population loss, I found it necessary to extend these districts across 8 Mile into Southfield and Oak Park to find sufficient African-American population.

- District 1 includes Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes along with southern, downtown, and eastern Detroit. This district is connected along major arterials like the Ford Freeway and Jefferson Avenue.
- District 2 is Dearborn, Highland Park, Hamtramck, and central Detroit. This district is two distinct but adjacent communities of interest joined for VRA purposes.
- District 3 joins western Detroit with Dearborn Heights, Garden City, and Inkster. Again, this district is two distinct but adjacent communities of interest joined for VRA purposes.
- District 4 consists of northern Detroit and the many small cities between Southfield and Warren. The heart of this district is the Woodward corridor between Highland Park and Birmingham.
- District 5 is a suburban-focused district connecting Southfield, Livonia, Redford, and a small portion of far northwestern Detroit.

None of these districts split a municipality other than Detroit. Divisions in Detroit are generally along major roads. For example, the major boundaries between District 1 and 2 is Gratiot, between District 2 and 3 is Schaeffer Highway, and between District 2 and 4 is McNichols. Using major roads as boundaries within cities improves the public's capacity to understand the districts' layout.

They are all safe Democratic districts. As majority-minority districts designed to protect African-American voting rights, they are all highly likely to elect African American Democrats.

Wayne-based districts: The remaining Wayne County districts look to protect communities of interest while keeping in mind statewide partisan proportionality.

- District 6 takes in Northville, Plymouth, Canton, and Westland. It is connected along major arterials like Ford Road and I-275.
- District 7 is located in southwestern Wayne County and eastern Washtenaw. It is centered around the I-94 corridor and has a significant African American population.
- District 8 is a Downriver district. Public comment was overwhelmingly in favor of recognizing this community of interest where possible. It is connected along I-75 and Fort St (M-85).

I would particularly like to highlight District 7. Because it straddles the Wayne/Washtenaw border, I think the commission might otherwise miss this potential district. I believe that the I-94 corridor is a very real community of interest in terms of commuter and commercial flows. It brings together an aviation industrial interest by connecting Detroit Metro and Willow Run airports. Further, its population is about one-quarter African American, which makes it likely that African Americans would have a plurality of the Democratic primary vote in this district. This district would create a strong opportunity for African American representation outside of the city of Detroit.

None of these districts split a municipality other than Detroit, which is split along a major geographical feature.

District 6 would be strongly Democratic, District 7 safe Democratic, and District 8 competitive with a Democratic lean.

Macomb-based Districts: I drew three districts in the southern half of Macomb.

- District 9 consists of St. Clair Shores, Eastpointe, Roseville, Fraser, Clinton Twp, and Mount Clemens. This district is built around the Gratiot corridor as a community of interest.
- District 10 consists of Warren, Center Line, and most of Sterling Heights. This district is built around Mound and Van Dyke as arterial connectors.
- District 11 pulls together the outer band of rapidly growing suburbs: Harrison, Chesterfield Twp, New Baltimore, Macomb Twp, Shelby Twp, Utica, and a part of Sterling Heights for population equality.

These districts contain no county splits and one municipal split in Sterling Heights. The choice of which portion of Sterling Heights is attached to District 11 could easily be changed if the commission's community of interest testimony persuades it otherwise. My selected portion is north of 18 Mile and west of Mound Rd. I selected it to improve statewide proportionality.

I made the decision to run Districts 9 and 10 vertically instead of horizontally to 1) better follow the transportation arterials running north out of Detroit and 2) improve statewide proportionality.

District 9 is competitive with a Democratic lean, District 10 highly competitive, and District 11 strongly Republican.

Oakland-based Districts: I drew an additional three districts in southern and eastern Oakland.

- District 12 runs along M-59 in central Oakland, connecting Rochester/Rochester Hills, Auburn Hills, Pontiac, and Waterford Twp (along with some smaller adjacent communities.)
- District 13 combines the next line of cities to the south: Madison Heights, Troy, Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham and West Bloomfield (along with the smaller communities just north of Southfield.) On its east side, it connected along the Chrysler Freeway. In the center, it includes a stretch of the Woodward corridor. I would guess that this district would have the highest average household income in the state.
- District 14 pulls together the southwestern portion of the county - Farmington/Farmington Hills, Novi, South Lyon/Lyon Twp, and Wixom/Walled Lake/Commerce Twp. This district is built around I-96/696 and the Grand River corridor.

These districts contain no county or municipal splits.

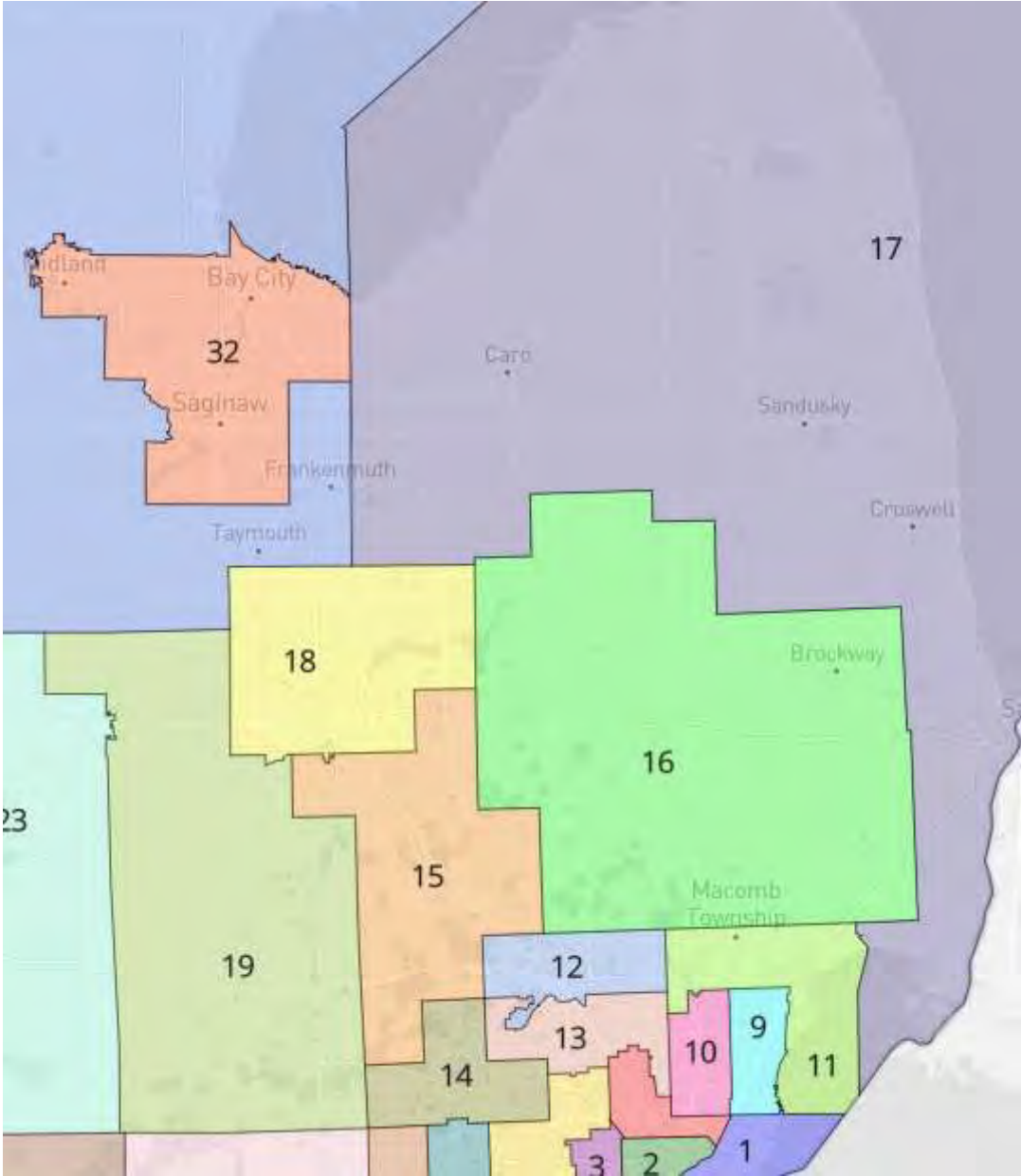
All three districts would be competitive with a Democratic lean.

Some additional notes on county and/or municipal splits in the Detroit region before moving on:

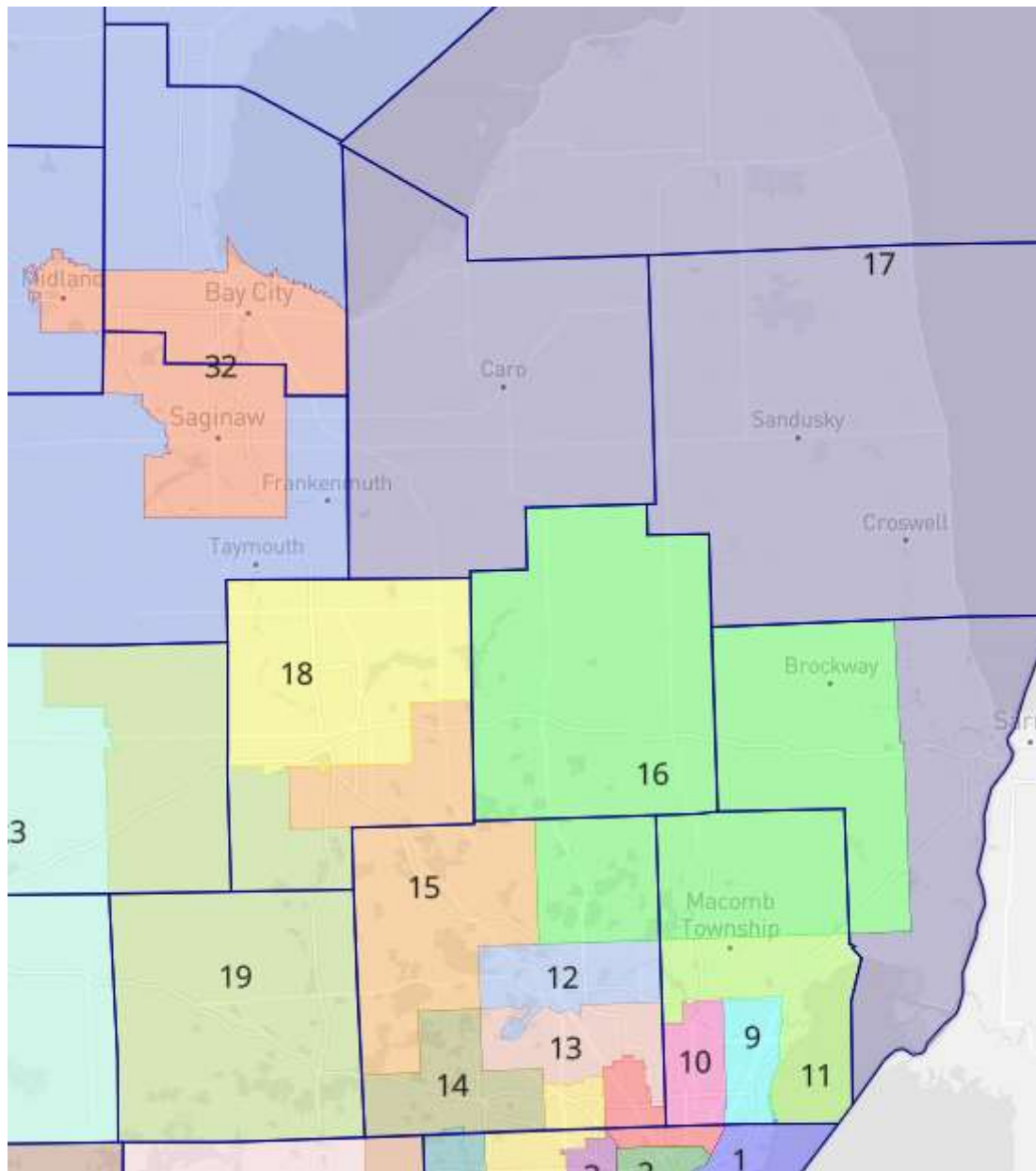
- District 1 includes all of Grosse Pointe Shores, including the Oakland County portion. That portion has a tiny population and could easily be moved to District 9 to split the municipality instead of the county, if desired.
- District 6 includes all of Northville, including the Oakland County portion. Although that portion contains several thousand people, it could be moved to District 14 to split the municipality instead of the county while both districts stay within legal population equality limits, if desired.
- District 8 includes a small portion of southern Detroit, specifically the areas south of the Rouge River. That portion is home to about 6,500 people. District 8 would still be within legal population equality limits without it, but boundaries inside Detroit would need to change as District 1 would go over population limits if it absorbed the area. Keeping it in District 8 preserves a small community of interest between African American residents of Ecorse, River Rouge, and that small slice of southern Detroit.

East Michigan

Overview map without county boundaries



Overview map with county boundaries



District 15 through District 18 are located in East Michigan - Genesee, northern and western Oakland, northern Macomb, and the Thumb.

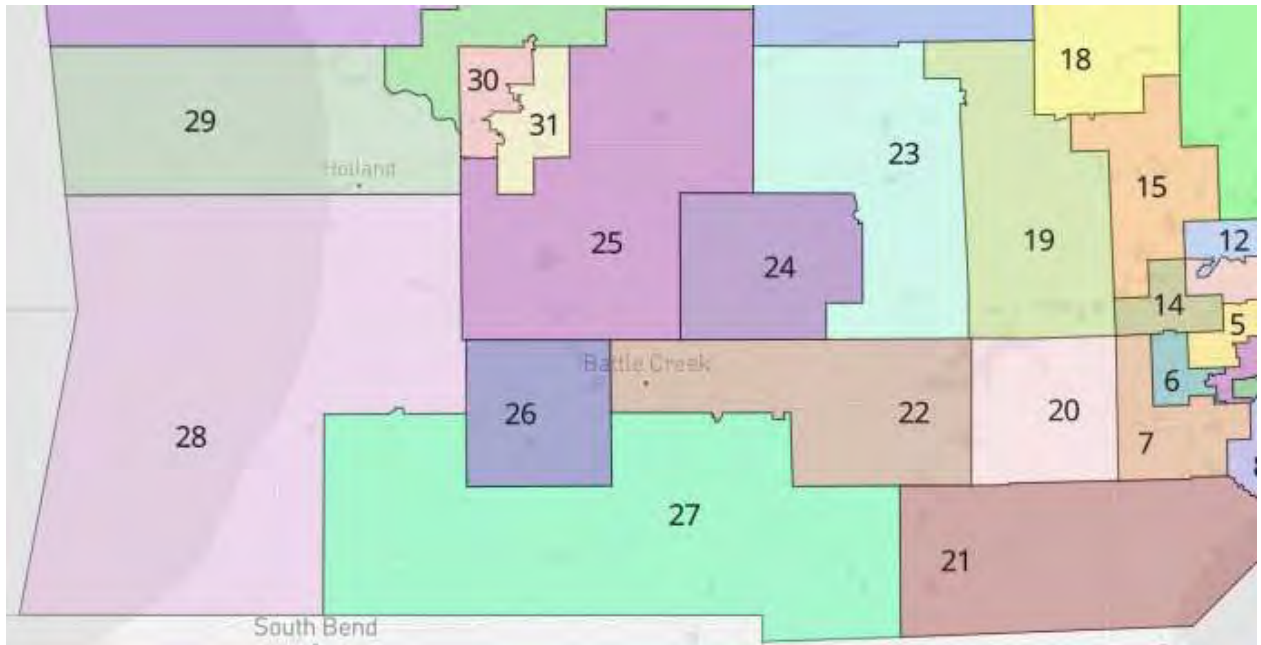
- District 15 is built around the I-75 corridor between Pontiac and Flint.
- District 16 pulls together exurban and rural areas anchored by Lapeer, combined with northeastern Oakland, northern Macomb, and western St. Clair
- District 17 is a Thumb district with Tuscola, Huron, and Sanilac along with the eastern, coastal portions of St. Clair.
- District 18 is a compact northern Genesee district anchored in Flint.

There are no municipal splits among these districts.

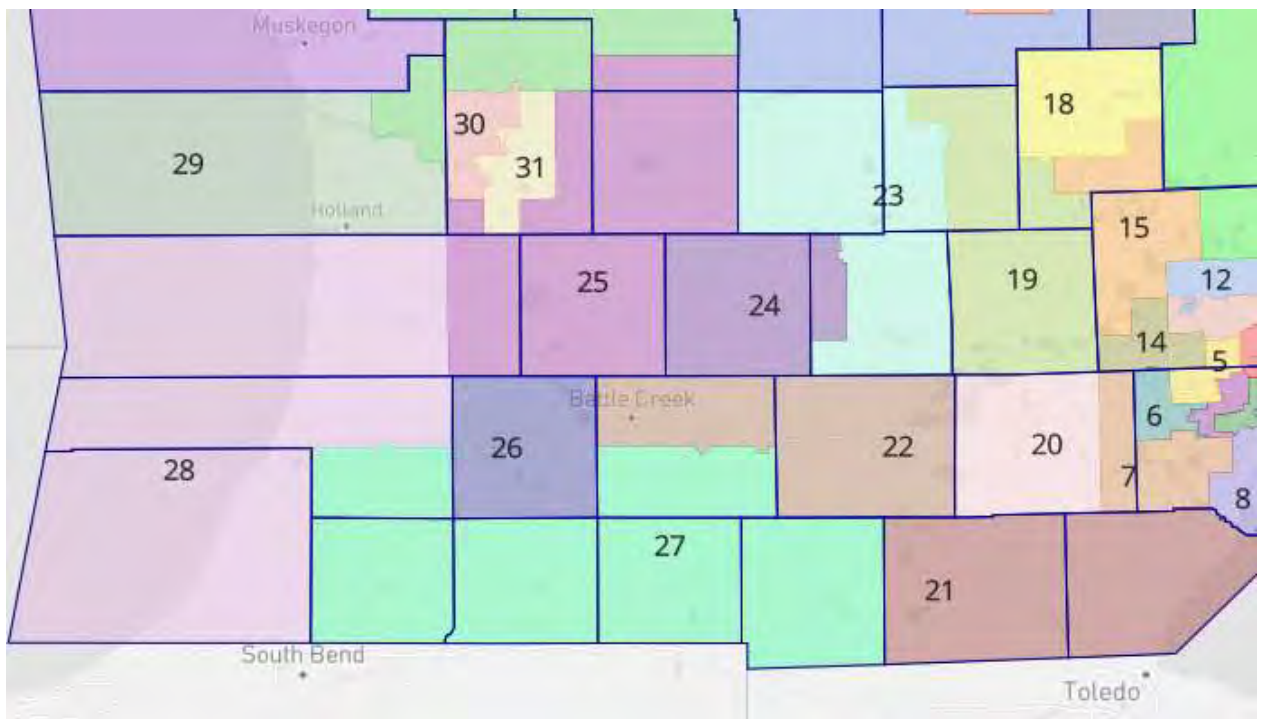
This is a heavily Republican section of the state. District 18 would be safe Democratic, and at about 30% African American, likely to elect an African American Democrat. District 15 which is strongly Republican and the other two safe Republican.

Southern, Central and Western Michigan

Overview map without county boundaries



Overview map with county boundaries



Central/South Michigan - Districts 19 through 24 are located in the greater Lansing and Ann Arbor areas. They cover all of Monroe, Lenawee, Livingston, Shiawassee, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, and Jackson Counties; most of Washtenaw and Calhoun Counties; and part of Genesee County.

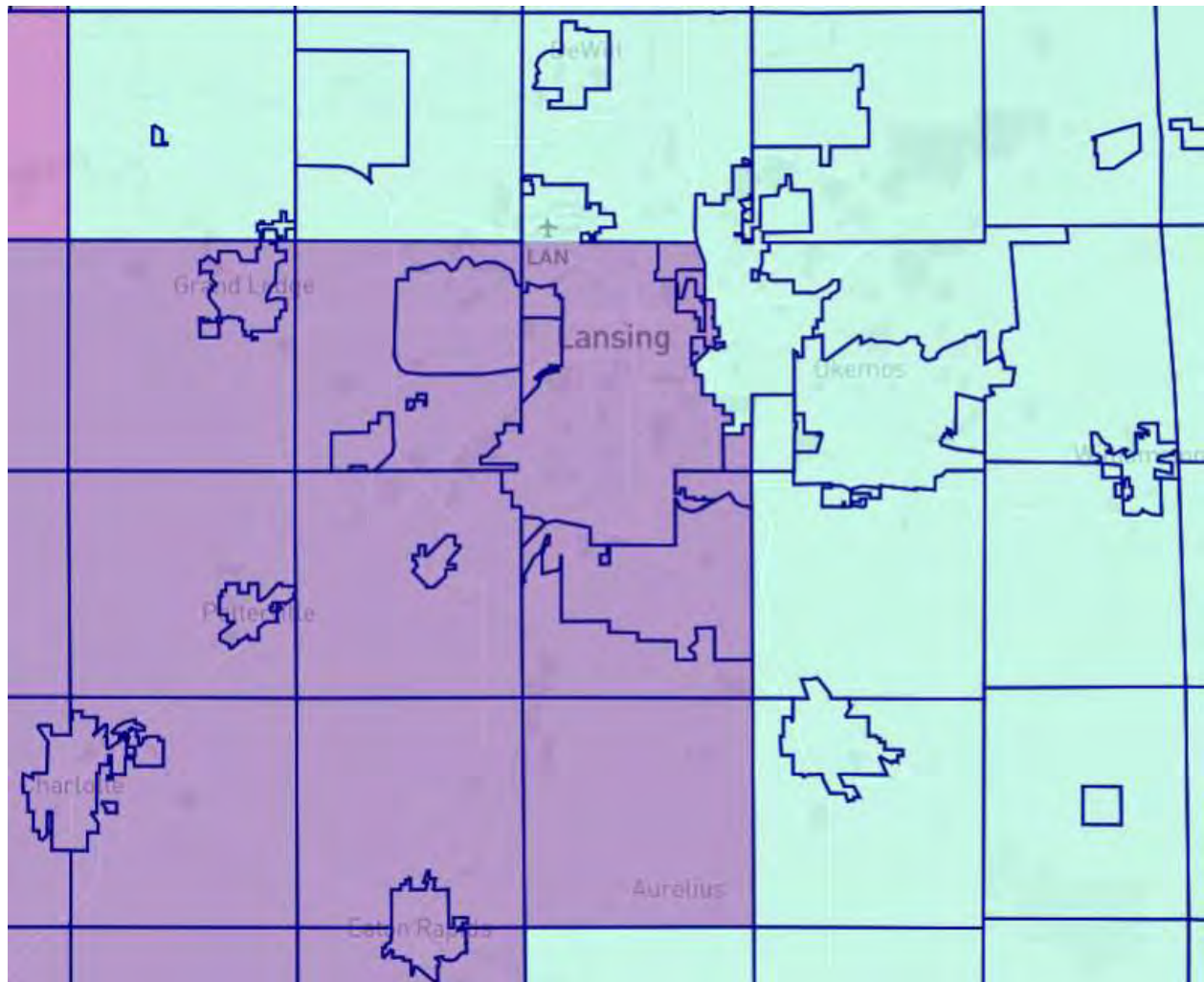
- District 19 is a suburban/exurban seat in the middle of Detroit, Flint, and Lansing. It combines all of Livingston County with southern Genesee and eastern Shiawassee.
- District 20 is a compact Washtenaw seat, anchored by Ann Arbor and containing its western bedroom communities.
- District 21 links Lenawee and Monroe, the two southeasternmost counties of the state.
- District 22 combines Jackson with northern Calhoun as a I-94/Michigan Ave corridor community of interest.
- District 23 is one of two Lansing area districts. This one combines Clinton, western Shiawassee, and most of Ingham.
- District 24 is the other Lansing seat. It combines Lansing proper with Eaton.

These six districts contain four county splits in Ingham, Shiawassee, Genesee, and Calhoun. These splits are due to population equalization -- these are all relatively large counties that would be difficult to recombine into fewer splits, especially while keeping the commission's other priorities in mind. They contain no municipal splits that aren't explained by enclaves or county boundaries.

Districts 20 and 21 are fairly self-explanatory, I think. District 22 pulls together the small industrial cities and towns along I-94/Michigan Ave and separates those small urban areas from the rural areas to their south. The Lansing area is roughly large enough for two districts. Splitting it into two districts that both contain urban cores is necessary for statewide proportionality to avoid advantaging the Republican party. Livingston is large enough to anchor its own district in District 19, and taking in southern Genesee follows a community of interest along US-23. Shiawassee County is split between Districts 19 and 23 largely for population equality as opposed to any other interest.

These six districts are split in party preference. Districts 19 and 21 are strongly Republican, while District 22 is competitive with a Republican lean. District 20 is safe Democratic, District 24 strongly Democratic, and District 23 competitive with a Democratic lean.

Close-up of the Lansing area with municipal boundaries



West/South Michigan - Districts 25 through 31 are located in the greater Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo areas. They cover all of Hillsdale, Branch, St. Joseph, Cass, Berrien, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Allegan, Barry, and Ionia Counties; most of Ottawa and Kent Counties; and part of Calhoun and Montcalm Counties.

- District 25 is a district for Grand Rapids' eastern and southern suburbs and exurbs. It contains all of Barry and Ionia and parts of Kent, Allegan, and Montcalm.
- District 26 is a compact Kalamazoo seat, containing all of Kalamazoo County.
- District 27 pulls together the southern rural counties of Hillsdale, Cass, St. Joseph, and Branch with the southern halves of Calhoun and Van Buren. US-12 is a major arterial for this district.
- District 28 lies along the Lake Michigan coast south of Holland, containing Berrien, northern Van Buren, and most of Allegan.

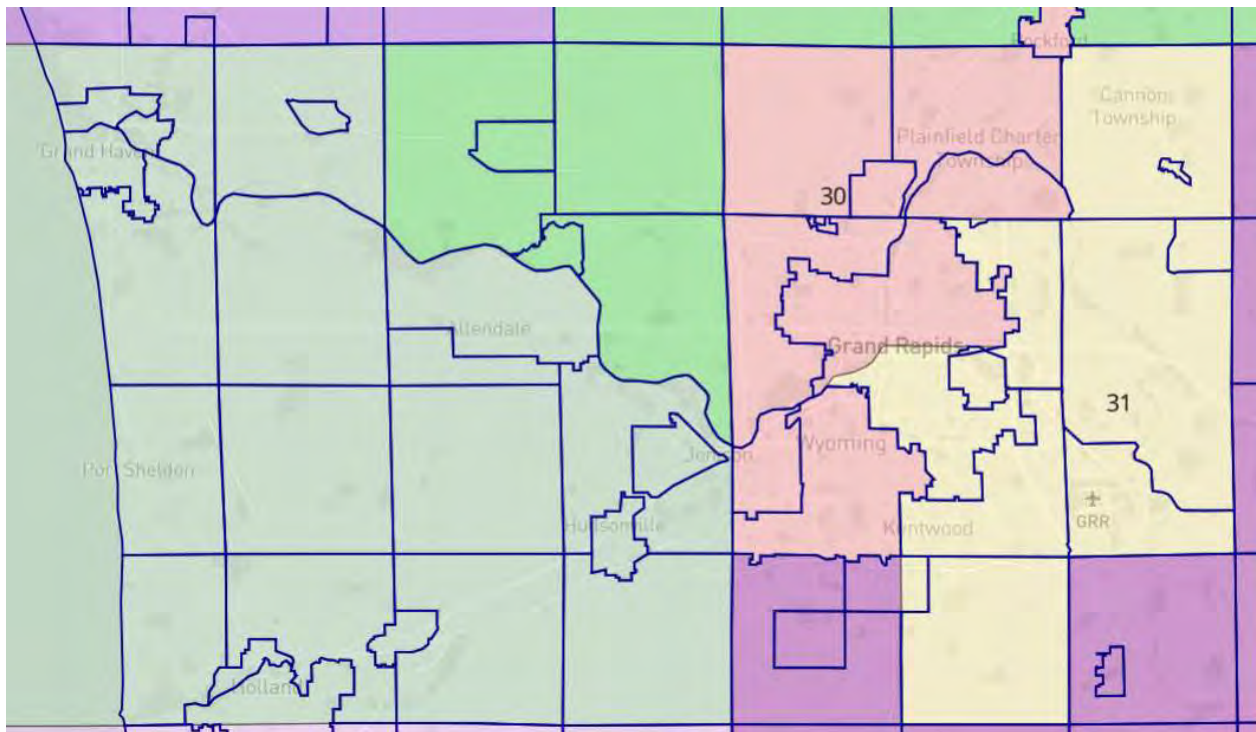
- District 29 is a compact Ottawa seat. Ottawa is too large for a single district, so far northeastern Ottawa is placed in District 34
- District 30 is one of two Grand Rapids-based seats, containing the western and northern portions of the “Six Cities” and extending into surrounding townships.
- District 31 is the other Grand Rapids-based seat, containing the eastern and southern portions of the “Six Cities” and extending into surrounding townships.

These seven districts contain six counties that are split between them, which are required for population equality. The city of Grand Rapids is the only municipality split, which is necessary for statewide proportionality. The split follows Fulton St and the Grand River. Splitting Grand Rapids itself allows it to anchor two districts with its suburban neighbors. Failure to split Grand Rapids packs urban voters and unfairly advantages the Republican party.

District 26 pretty much draws itself as a compact Kalamazoo seat. District 27 takes in the four rural counties to the south, along with the southern half of Calhoun that didn't fit into District 22 and enough of Van Buren for population equality. The shoreline District 28 takes in Berrien, the remainder of Van Buren, and most of Allegan for population equality. District 29 is most of Ottawa County - portions north and east of the Grand are excluded for population equality. Districts 30 and 31 take in the core portions of metro Grand Rapids in Kent County. District 25 is then Barry and Ionia combined with the remainder of Allegan, the remainder of southern and eastern Kent, and the southern tier of townships from Montcalm for population equality.

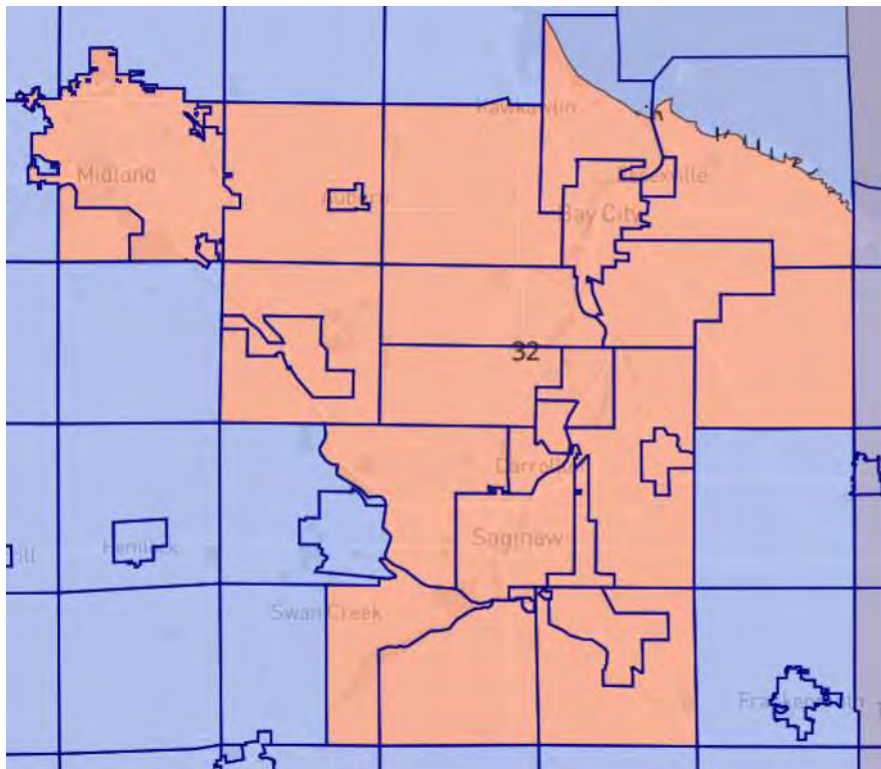
This region of the state favors Republicans, which is shown in the districts' partisan preferences. Districts 25, 27 and 29 are safe Republican; while District 28 is strongly Republican. Districts 26 and 31 are strongly Democratic. District 30 would be highly competitive.

Close-up of Kent and Ottawa with municipal boundaries



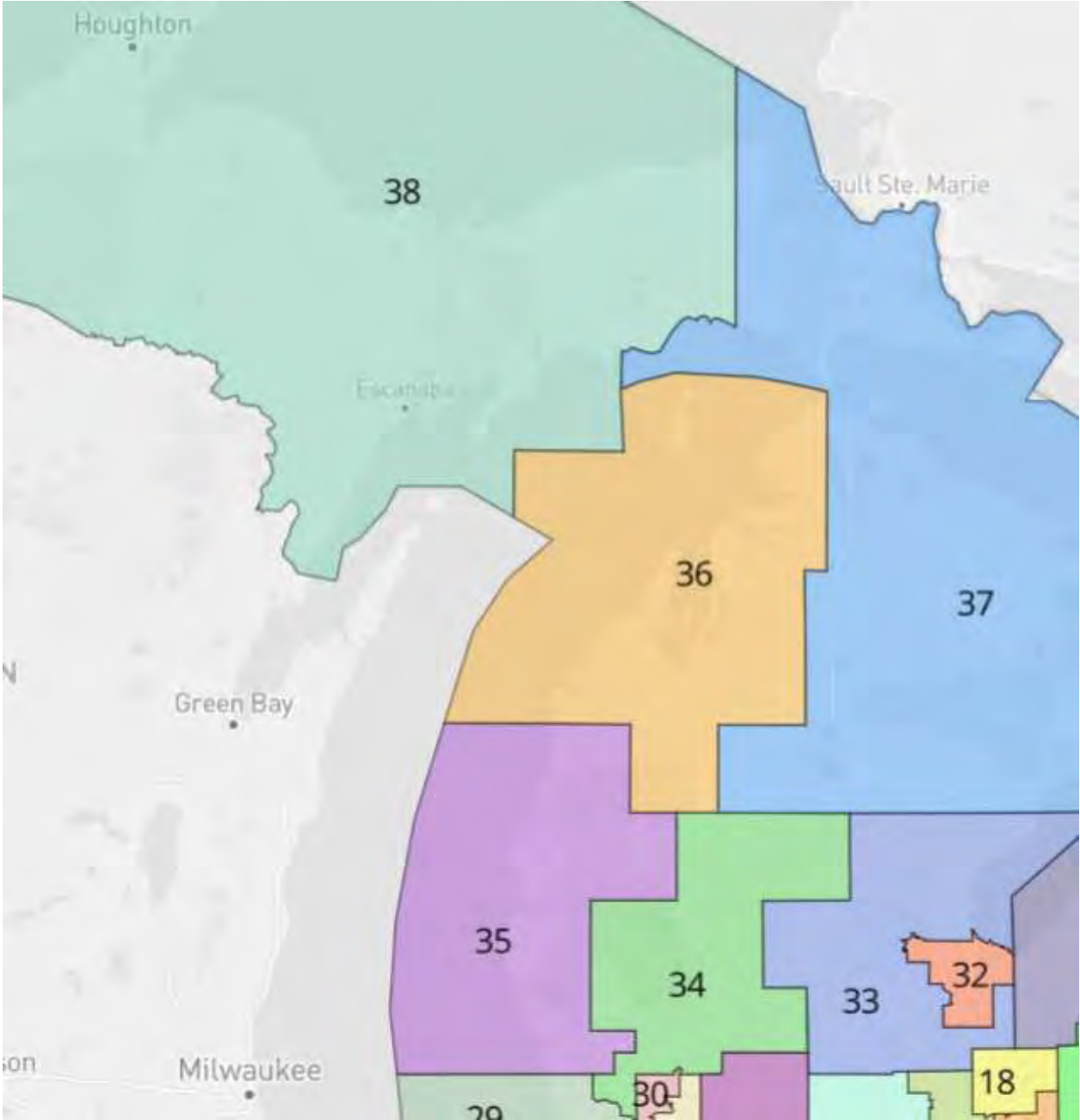
Note that the Cutlerville area south of Wyoming/Kentwood that appears to be split is a Census-designated place, not a true municipality

Close-up of the Tri-Cities Area with municipal boundaries

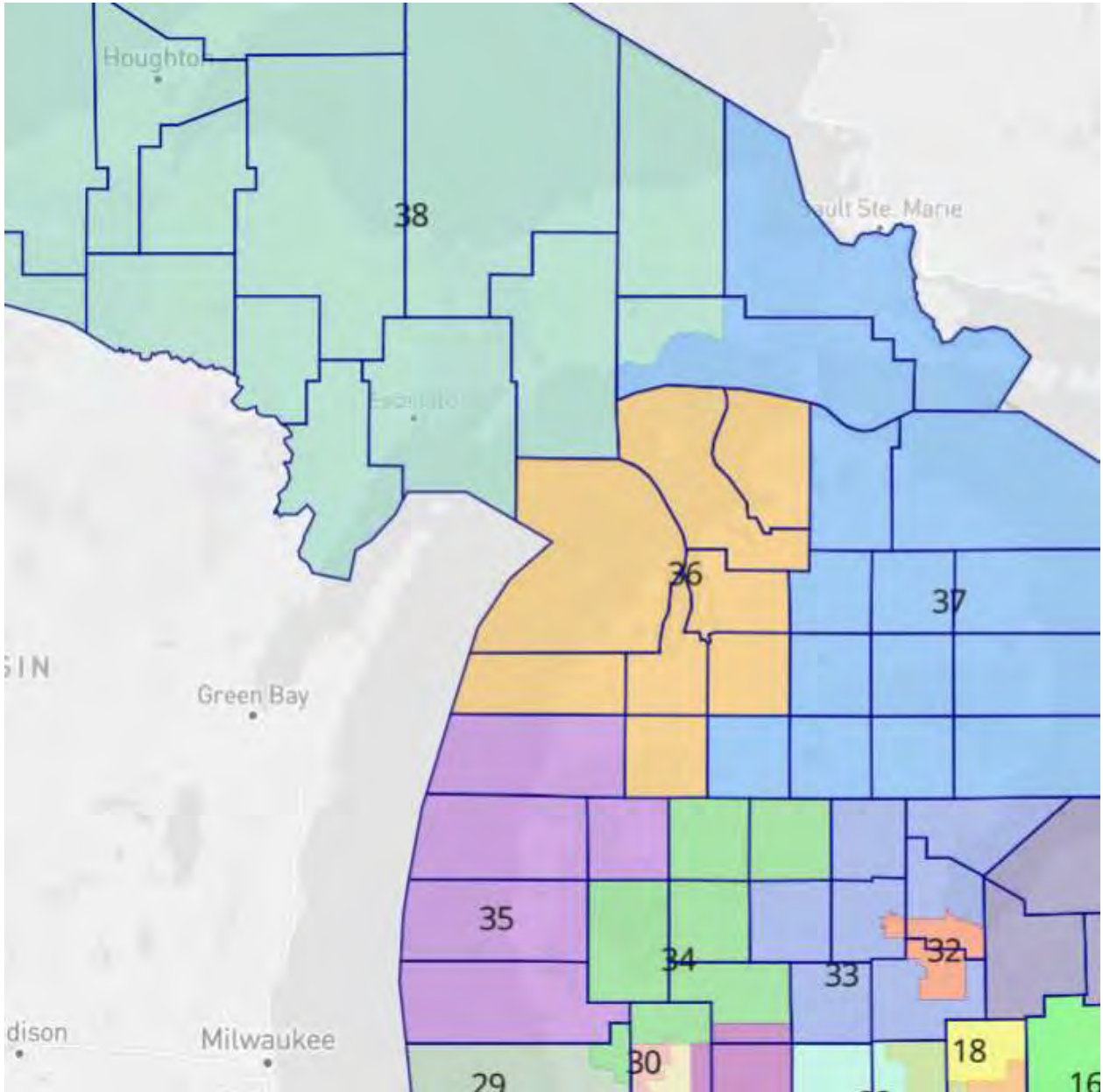


Northern Michigan

Overview map without county boundaries



Overview map with county boundaries



The remaining districts (32 through 38) are in northern Michigan - defined roughly as Muskegon, Newaygo, Montcalm, Gratiot, and Saginaw Counties; along with all counties north of them.

- District 32 is a compact Tri-Cities district, both in response to public comment to protect that community of interest and for statewide partisan proportionality.
- District 33 takes in the remainder of Saginaw, Bay, and Midland Counties, along with Arenac, Gladwin, Isabella, and Gratiot Counties. This creates a rural and small town community of interest district in east central Michigan to complement District 32's urban and suburban district.
- District 34 takes in the remainder of Kent, Ottawa, and Montcalm Counties and combines them with the interior counties to their north: Newaygo, Mecosta, Oceola, and Clare. This follows the M37 and US131 arterials going north from Grand Rapids.
- District 35 is a shoreline community of interest district with Muskegon, Oceana, Mason, and Manistee Counties. It also includes Lake County for population equality.
- District 36 is a community of interest district for Greater Traverse City. It includes Emmet, Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, Wexford, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, and Benzie.
- District 37 is 37's counterpart on the Lake Huron side, containing Missaukee, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco, Alcona, Oscoda, Crawford, Otsego, Montmorency, Alpena, Presque Isle and Cheboygan Counties. For population equality, it crosses the Straights to take most of Mackinac and all of Chippewa.
- District 38 is the remainder of Mackinac and the remaining Upper Peninsula counties: Luce, Schoolcraft, Alger, Delta, Menominee, Dickinson, Marquette, Iron, Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw, Ontonagon, and Gogebic.

These seven districts contain seven counties that are split, mostly in Districts 32 through 34. Districts 35 and 36 require no county splits, while District 38 requires a split of Mackinac or Chippewa for population equality.

District 34 splits come from taking in the portion of counties leftover in districts to its south and won't be rehashed.

Districts 32 and 33 split Saginaw, Bay, and Midland Counties between them. This is necessary both to protect the Tri-Cities community of interest and for statewide proportionality. District 32, as a compact urban seat across three counties, is specifically the kind of district that the Fair Districts amendment supports by deprioritizing boundary splits in favor of communities of interest and proportionality.

This area is mostly split between competitive districts and those that favor Republicans. Districts 32 and 35 are highly competitive, while District 38 is competitive with a Republican lean. Districts 33 and 36 are strongly Republican, while the remaining two are safe Republican.

Conclusion

The presented plan demonstrates that it is possible to adhere to the Constitutional priorities of equality of population and fidelity to federal law, contiguity, and preserving communities of interest, while also maximizing partisan proportionality. I hope that it will serve as a useful model for the commissioners as they seek to implement their Constitutional mandate. I thank the commissioners for their consideration.

The 48111 Tri-Community

City of Belleville, Sumpter Township and Van Buren Township

Good evening, my name is Kevin McNamara and I am the Supervisor of Van Buren Township. I have no vested interest in the districting process; other than being a citizen of our tri-community. I have been authorized by the governments of the Tri-Community representing the Charter Township of Van Buren, the City of Belleville and the Township of Sumpter to speak to consolidating these communities as Communities of interest.

I have Resolutions passed by the Belleville City Council, the Sumpter Twp. Board of Trustees and the Van Buren Twp. Board of Trustees, requesting this commission recognize that we have a 150-year history of being one community (With a shared Museum and Full Time Director to confirm). And a 150-year history of actively working together as a single government from the Civil War and our shared Cemeteries, to the many Shared Festivals thrown in our Tri-Community Downtown of Belleville. We are requesting to have the redistricting lines drawn to include the three communities together.

Our communities border each other as two six-by-six mile townships with the City of Belleville in the middle of Van Buren Township. Drawn together, we would be a rectangle 6 mile across and 12 mile long – with a combined population of 40 to 45 thousand citizens. Well within any boundary parameters.

We Share:

- The 48111 Zip Code – encompassing the Tri-Community area
- One School District – the Van Buren School District
- One Library with a general election – elected board from the Tri-Community
- One Museum funded by the three governments and overseen by a board of Tri-Community Area
- Shared Police Dispatch with Belleville and Van Buren
- Shared Mutual Aid Pact for Police, Fire and Emergency for our lake and dam contingencies
- Have active work groups developing a system for our governments to share public services through-out the Tri-Community
- Most if not all our service groups are named with the designated prefix “Belleville Area” including:
 - Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Belleville Area Council for the Arts
 - Belleville Area Rotary Club
 - Belleville Area Museum
 - Belleville Area District Library
 - Belleville Area Independent Newspaper (our paper representing our Tri-Community)

Our Demographics are highly similar with an aging population, a median income of \$61,000 and a minority population varying from fifteen to thirty percent.



VAN BUREN
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Resolution 21-14

TO REQUEST THAT THE MICHIGAN INDEPENDENT
CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (MICRC)

KEEP THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, AND SUMPTER TOWNSHIP TOGETHER IN REDISTRICTING PLAN

WHEREAS, in 2018, Michigan voters drastically shifted the redistricting process by adopting Proposal 18-2, allowing citizens to define their district lines, instead of partisan legislators, with respect to their historical, cultural, or economic perspectives that reflect their best interest.

WHEREAS, for the first time in Michigan's history, the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) will lead the redistricting process to draw fair and independent maps. The MICRC has the exclusive authority to redistrict the state under Article IV, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and is responsible for drawing the district lines for the Michigan Congressional House and Senate.

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Van Buren collaborates with our neighboring communities of the City of Belleville and Sumpter Township with shared Public Services and Public Safety Dispatch, shared community events, shared land boundaries, a shared School System, the shared Belleville Area Museum and shared Belleville Lake.

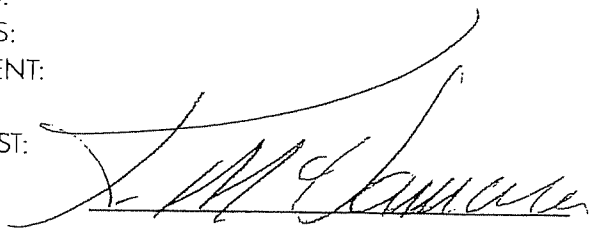
NOW, **therefore be it resolved** the Charter Township of Van Buren hereby request that the MICRC consider keeping the City of Belleville, Sumpter Township and Van Buren Township together as the redistricting plans are drawn and adopted by the State of Michigan.

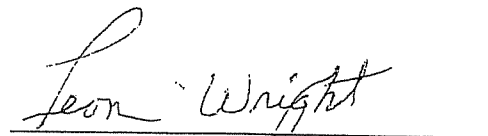
BE IT, **further resolved** this resolution is made a part of the minutes of the Charter Township of Van Buren's regular meeting on June 1, 2021.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN THIS
THE 1st DAY OF JUNE 2021.

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:

ATTEST:


Kevin McNamara, Supervisor


Leon Wright, Clerk

TOWNSHIP OF SUMPTER

RESOLUTION 2021-09

RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE MICHIGAN INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (MICRC) KEEP THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP AND SUMPTER TOWNSHIP TOGETHER IN THE REDISTRICTING PLAN

WHEREAS, in 2018, Michigan voters drastically shifted the redistricting process by adopting Proposal 18-2. Instead of legislators drawing lines for their best interest, citizens would now draw lines representing their best interests respecting their historical, cultural or economic perspectives.

WHEREAS, for the first time in Michigan's history, the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) will lead the redistricting process to draw fair and independent maps. The MICRC has the exclusive authority to redistrict the state under Article IV, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and is responsible for drawing the district lines for the Michigan Congressional, House, and Senate.

WHEREAS, Sumpter Township not only collaborates with our neighboring communities, but shares land boundaries with the City of Belleville, numerous School Districts, Belleville Lake and the Downtown District with Van Buren Township.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Sumpter Township hereby requests that the MICRC keep Sumpter Township, Belleville and Van Buren Township in one district because said communities co-existent, share common interest, developments and services, and would benefit from the representation of common Michigan elected officials in addressing the concerns of their locality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution is made a part of the minutes of Sumpter Township for May 25, 2021.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

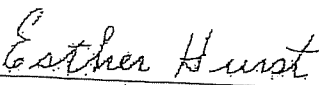
Motion by Trustee Oddy, Supported by Trustee LaPorte;

Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Trustees; Rush, Oddy, Morgan, LaPorte
Nays: None.
Excused: Clerk E. Hurst and Treasurer J. Clark

Resolution adopted.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Township of Sumpter at its regular meeting held on May 25, 2021 at the Township Hall, Sumpter Township, Belleville, Michigan 48111.



Esther Hurst, Township Clerk

City of Belleville

6 Main Street Belleville, MI 48111-2788
734-697-9323 Fax 734-697-6837 www.belleville.mi.us



RESOLUTION NO. 21-050

RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE MICHIGAN INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (MICRC) KEEP THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, AND SUMPTER TOWNSHIP TOGETHER IN REDISTRICTING PLAN

WHEREAS, in 2018, Michigan voters drastically shifted the redistricting process by adopting Proposal 18-2. Instead of legislators drawing lines for their best interests, citizens would draw lines that represent their best interests and respect their historical, cultural, or economic perspectives.

WHEREAS, for the first time in Michigan's history, the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) will lead the redistricting process to draw fair and independent maps. The MICRC has the exclusive authority to redistrict the state under Article IV, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and is responsible for drawing the district lines for the Michigan Congressional, House, and Senate.

WHEREAS, the City of Belleville not only collaborates with our neighboring communities, we share land boundaries, School System, Belleville Lake, and the Downtown District with Van Buren and Sumpter Townships.

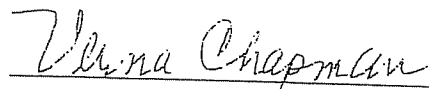
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Belleville hereby requests that the MICRC consider keeping the City of Belleville, Sumpter Township and Van Buren Township together as the redistricting plans are drawn and adopted for the State of Michigan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution is made a part of the minutes of the City of Belleville City Council meeting on May 17, 2021.

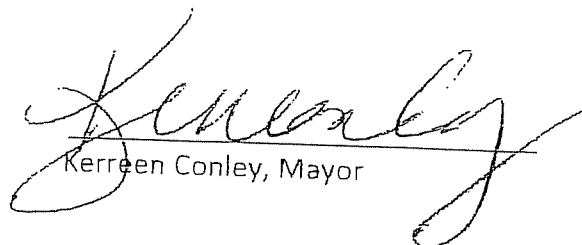
PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN THIS THE 17th DAY OF MAY 2021.

AYES: Bates, Conley, Fielder, Marcotte and Voigt
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

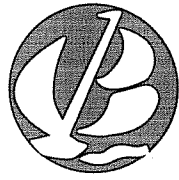
ATTEST:



Verna Chapman, City Clerk



Kerreen Conley, Mayor



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Kevin McNamara | Supervisor · Sharry A. Budd | Treasurer · Leon Wright | Clerk
Reggie Miller | Trustee · Kevin Martin | Trustee · Sherry Frazier | Trustee · Donald Boynton Jr. | Trustee

Douglas Clark
Commissioner (MICRC)
PO BOX 30318
Lansing, MI 48909

June 18th, 2021

RE: The 48111 Tri-Community of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

Commissioner Clark:

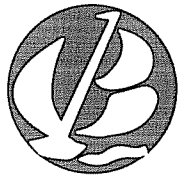
Please accept this letter as a follow-up to our formal request for support to consolidate the City of Belleville, Sumpter Township, and the Charter Township of Van Buren for the purposes of voter redistricting.

On behalf of all three communities, I would like to thank you for hearing our request and dedicating your time to the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC). With your support, our 48111 Tri-Community is one step closer to unifying our shared community into one voting district.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Kevin McNamara
Van Buren Township

Enclosures



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Kevin McNamara | Supervisor • Sharry A. Budd | Treasurer • Leon Wright | Clerk
Reggie Miller | Trustee • Kevin Martin | Trustee • Sherry Frazier | Trustee • Donald Boynton Jr. | Trustee

Juanita Curry
Commissioner (MICRC)
PO BOX 30318
Lansing, MI 48909

June 18th, 2021

RE: The 48111 Tri-Community of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

Commissioner Curry:

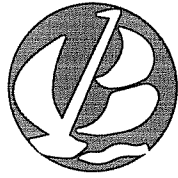
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Sincerely,

Supervisor Kevin McNamara
Van Buren Township

Enclosures



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Kevin McNamara | Supervisor · Sharry A. Budd | Treasurer · Leon Wright | Clerk
Reggie Miller | Trustee · Kevin Martin | Trustee · Sherry Frazier | Trustee · Donald Boynton Jr. | Trustee

Anthony Eid
Commissioner (MICRC)
PO BOX 30318
Lansing, MI 48909

June 18th, 2021

RE: The 48111 Tri-Community of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

Commissioner Eid:

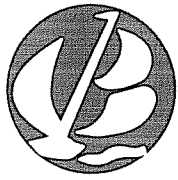
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Sincerely,

Supervisor Kevin McNamara
Van Buren Township

Enclosures



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Kevin McNamara | Supervisor • Sharry A. Budd | Treasurer • Leon Wright | Clerk
Reggie Miller | Trustee • Kevin Martin | Trustee • Sherry Frazier | Trustee • Donald Boynton Jr. | Trustee

Rhonda Lange
Commissioner (MICRC)
PO BOX 30318
Lansing, MI 48909

June 18th, 2021

RE: The 48111 Tri-Community of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

Commissioner Lange:

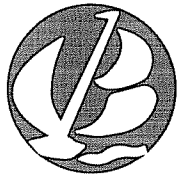
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Sincerely,

Supervisor Kevin McNamara
Van Buren Township

Enclosures



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Kevin McNamara | Supervisor • Sharry A. Budd | Treasurer • Leon Wright | Clerk
Reggie Miller | Trustee • Kevin Martin | Trustee • Sherry Frazier | Trustee • Donald Boynton Jr. | Trustee

Steven Lett
Commissioner (MICRC)
PO BOX 30318
Lansing, MI 48909

June 18th, 2021

RE: The 48111 Tri-Community of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

Commissioner Lett:

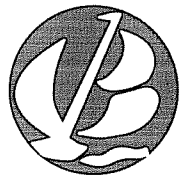
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Sincerely,

Supervisor Kevin McNamara
Van Buren Township

Enclosures



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Kevin McNamara | Supervisor · Sharry A. Budd | Treasurer · Leon Wright | Clerk
Reggie Miller | Trustee · Kevin Martin | Trustee · Sherry Frazier | Trustee · Donald Boynton Jr. | Trustee

Brittni Kellom
Commissioner (MICRC)
PO BOX 30318
Lansing, MI 48909

June 18th, 2021

RE: The 48111 Tri-Community of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

Commissioner Kellom:

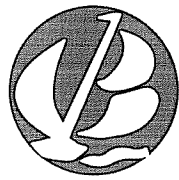
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Sincerely,

Supervisor Kevin McNamara
Van Buren Township

Enclosures



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Kevin McNamara | Supervisor · Sharry A. Budd | Treasurer · Leon Wright | Clerk
Reggie Miller | Trustee · Kevin Martin | Trustee · Sherry Frazier | Trustee · Donald Boynton Jr. | Trustee

Cynthia Orton
Commissioner (MICRC)
PO BOX 30318
Lansing, MI 48909

June 18th, 2021

RE: The 48111 Tri-Community of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

Commissioner Orton:

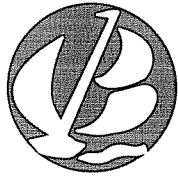
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Sincerely,

Supervisor Kevin McNamara
Van Buren Township

Enclosures



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Kevin McNamara | Supervisor • Sharry A. Budd | Treasurer • Leon Wright | Clerk
Reggie Miller | Trustee • Kevin Martin | Trustee • Sherry Frazier | Trustee • Donald Boynton Jr. | Trustee

M.C. Rothhorn
Commissioner (MICRC)
PO BOX 30318
Lansing, MI 48909

June 18th, 2021

RE: The 48111 Tri-Community of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

Commissioner Rothhorn:

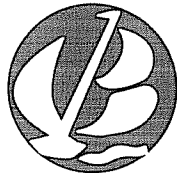
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Van Buren Township

Enclosures



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Kevin McNamara | Supervisor · Sharry A. Budd | Treasurer · Leon Wright | Clerk
Reggie Miller | Trustee · Kevin Martin | Trustee · Sherry Frazier | Trustee · Donald Boynton Jr. | Trustee

Rebecca Szetela
Commissioner (MICRC)
PO BOX 30318
Lansing, MI 48909

June 18th, 2021

RE: The 48111 Tri-Community of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

Commissioner Szetela:

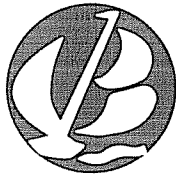
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Sincerely,

Supervisor Kevin McNamara
Van Buren Township

Enclosures



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Kevin McNamara | Supervisor · Sharry A. Budd | Treasurer · Leon Wright | Clerk
Reggie Miller | Trustee · Kevin Martin | Trustee · Sherry Frazier | Trustee · Donald Boynton Jr. | Trustee

Janice Vallette
Commissioner (MICRC)
PO BOX 30318
Lansing, MI 48909

June 18th, 2021

RE: The 48111 Tri-Community of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

Commissioner Vallette:

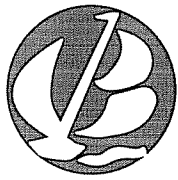
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Sincerely,

Supervisor Kevin McNamara
Van Buren Township

Enclosures



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

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Reggie Miller | Trustee • Kevin Martin | Trustee • Sherry Frazier | Trustee • Donald Boynton Jr. | Trustee

Erin Wagner
Commissioner (MICRC)
PO BOX 30318
Lansing, MI 48909

June 18th, 2021

RE: The 48111 Tri-Community of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

Commissioner Wagner:

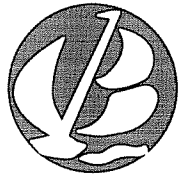
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Sincerely,

Supervisor Kevin McNamara
Van Buren Township

Enclosures



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Kevin McNamara | Supervisor • Sharry A. Budd | Treasurer • Leon Wright | Clerk
Reggie Miller | Trustee • Kevin Martin | Trustee • Sherry Frazier | Trustee • Donald Boynton Jr. | Trustee

Richard Weiss
Commissioner (MICRC)
PO BOX 30318
Lansing, MI 48909

June 18th, 2021

RE: The 48111 Tri-Community of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

Commissioner Weiss:

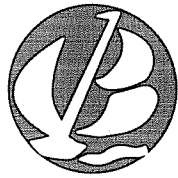
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Sincerely,

Supervisor Kevin McNamara
Van Buren Township

Enclosures



VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Kevin McNamara | Supervisor · Sharry A. Budd | Treasurer · Leon Wright | Clerk
Reggie Miller | Trustee · Kevin Martin | Trustee · Sherry Frazier | Trustee · Donald Boynton Jr. | Trustee

Dustin Witjes
Commissioner (MICRC)
PO BOX 30318
Lansing, MI 48909

June 18th, 2021

RE: The 48111 Tri-Community of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

Commissioner Witjes:

Please accept this letter as a follow-up to our formal request for support to consolidate the City of Belleville, Sumpter Township, and the Charter Township of Van Buren for the purposes of voter redistricting.

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Sincerely,

Supervisor Kevin McNamara
Van Buren Township

Enclosures

Cover Letter for Congressional Submission

Dear Commissioners:

I was a fellow applicant to the commissioner pool, equally committed to the cause of Fair Districts in Michigan. This submission is an honest effort to draw a Congressional map subject to the same guidelines and priorities laid out for you in the Michigan Constitution:

- Equality of population and compliance with federal law
- Contiguity
- Protection of communities of interest
- Avoidance of partisan disproportionality
- No consideration for incumbents
- Respect for county and municipal boundaries
- Reasonable compactness

I gave particular attention to priority four while still giving full diligence to the items above it. As you may already be discovering, the avoidance of partisan disproportionality is a difficult task given our contemporary political environment. It will require a careful and specific focus on your part in order to fulfill this priority. The proposed plan has extremely low levels of partisan bias -- less than a fraction of a percent on two of the metrics your consultant recommended to you.

In full disclosure: I applied as a Democratic commissioner. I do not believe that I allowed my own partisan preferences to unduly persuade me, but I will let you be the judge of that.

Finally, I would like to ask that you review my proposed District 7 in particular. Linking Lansing and Kalamazoo unites two medium-cities that might otherwise be drowned out by the surrounding rural counties. It thereby serves as both an urban community of interest (COI) district in a broad sense. In a narrower sense, it is COI district for college-oriented communities, connecting Michigan State and Western Michigan along with a number of smaller institutions. Statewide proportionality is greatly facilitated by this district.

Sincerely,
Corey Mason
Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan

Principles and Priorities

I am a longtime political enthusiast with a graduate-level education in political science and a genuine enjoyment of electoral cartography. That is to say that I am a nerd who has thought a lot about this stuff. I'd like to start with a short summary of my approach to district-drawing and my assessment and use of the Constitutional priorities guiding the commission.

My approach to district-drawing is fundamentally iterative and collaborative. The districts I'm presenting are the result of dozens of hours of drawing and redrawing and are informed by the perspectives of a number of other plans I've reviewed. I would encourage the commission to be diligent in trying and considering a variety of approaches to the problems of districting-drawing -- in my experience, the first few maps attempted for any given purpose will benefit greatly from synthesizing a variety of ideas and from iterative refinement.

With regards to the Constitutional priorities of the commission:

Equality of population and compliance with federal law

Version 9.6 of the commission's *Mapping Process and Procedures* gives a maximum population deviation of plus or minus half a percent. Although the federal courts generally favor zero deviation approaches, they have tolerated net deviations up to about three quarters of a percent, recognizing that mapmakers may have a reasonable basis for very small deviations. (The other Constitutional priorities, especially respect for local boundaries, might provide that basis.)

I made good use of this flexibility, with net deviation of 0.62%. This deviation was never used for the purposes of partisan proportionality (for example, making one party's districts systematically larger than the others.) It was instead used to comply with the county and/or municipal boundary priority.

Compliance with federal law regarding minority voting rights was at the forefront of my mind in drawing, especially in metro Detroit. Analyzing a map for Voting Rights Act ("VRA") compliance requires attorneys, but this is an honest lay effort to protect minority voting rights.

Contiguity

All districts are contiguous by land, except District 1 which must cross the Straits of Mackinac for population equality.

Protections of communities of interest and avoidance of partisan disproportionality

I am going to discuss these two elements together because they are at the heart of what Fair Districts are all about -- these two elements are what is truly new about redistricting in Michigan

this cycle. If the commission does not succeed at implementing both of these priorities, then I think it will have failed to carry out the vision of Fair Districts.

Gerrymandering is bad for a variety of reasons, but the two most important are covered by these priorities. Gerrymandering frequently unites very disparate regions or separates very similar regions for partisan advantage. It also, by definition, is an attempt to lock in partisan advantage over and against the collective will of the voters.

Michigan's current map, from the 2010 redistricting cycle, exemplifies both of these tendencies. Districts 2 and 3, for example, separate Grand Rapids from its inner suburbs for Republican gain. Despite the fact that the state had a Democratic lean for most of the decade (for example, both Senate seats remained Democratic throughout), Republicans were able to maintain a majority of the Congressional districts up until the 2018 elections (where Lansing's growth and a leftward shift in Detroit's suburbs finally caught up with District 8 and 11).

It is important to note that these two priorities cover different areas of analysis. Communities of interest are analyzed on a district-by-district basis; partisan proportionality is analyzed on a statewide level. Giving both of these priorities the attention they deserve will require a careful interplay of consideration of both individual districts and the overall plan.

Communities of interest are real and important. The commission has done an admirable job in soliciting and reviewing public comment to help it understand how voters view their communities. However, there will be some significant hindrances in being able to analyze how well the commission fulfilled this priority. Communities of interest are inherently subjective, amorphous, and qualitative; and it will be difficult to analyze the commission's success at protecting them.

This is in no way to undermine the importance the commission should place on communities of interest. It is simply to recognize that measuring the commission's success in this area will ultimately be ambiguous.

By contrast, partisan proportionality is quantitative and easily determined. You will be able to know whether you succeeded or failed at this task. I sincerely hope that the commission is dedicated to succeeding at implementing this priority.

No consideration for incumbents

No consideration for incumbents was given when drawing the maps. While I am broadly familiar with where the incumbents live, I did not allow that information to sway me while drawing.

Respect for County and Municipal Boundaries

From my perspective, this priority has two functions. First, it makes it easier to determine who your legislator is. "Oh, you live in Westland. Your U.S. Representative is _____." Second, it

eases election administration by not requiring the local governments that run elections to manage multiple ballots. (As a Plymouth Township poll-worker for the past five years, I am very sensitive to this aspect.)

The proposed map is extremely respectful of municipal boundaries. Only Detroit is split in the main proposal, in order to support two majority-minor districts in the state.

Reasonable compactness

Compactness is normally a high priority in discussing redistricting reform. Gerrymandering is often mocked by showing highly contorted districts. But the framers of the Fair Districts Amendment placed it last among the priorities for the commission. With that in mind, I strove to maintain reasonable compactness where it did not hinder higher priorities. The application I used gave the overall plan a 71% compactness score.

It is important to note that compactness will tend to advantage the Republican party in our contemporary political environment. Democratic voters tend to cluster in urban areas, which the unwary mapmaker can then unintentionally pack in highly Democratic districts. Republicans then win many more suburban and rural seats with small but durable majorities.

Finally, I would like to note a priority that isn't presented -- aesthetics. Districts that "look nice" are excellent when feasible, but aesthetic considerations should never hinder the commission's dedication to its Constitutional duties.

Methods and Terminology

My application of choice for redistricting projects is Dave's Redistricting App ("DRA").

Due to my commitment to the Constitutional priority of partisan proportionality, I drew all maps with partisan data visible (unlike the commission's multi-stage process.)

Descriptions of political competitiveness are based on DRA's "Composite 2016-2020" data, which averages the results of the following contests:

- 2016 US President
- 2018 US Senator
- 2018 Michigan Governor
- 2018 Michigan Attorney General
- 2020 US President
- 2020 US Senator

I use four descriptions of competitiveness based on this average.

- Highly competitive - neither party received more than 52.5% of the averaged vote

- Competitive with a (Republic/Democratic) lean - one party won between 52.5% and 55% of the averaged vote
- Strongly (Republican/Democratic) - one party won between 55% and 60% of the averaged vote
- Safe (Republican/Democratic) - one party won more than 60% of the averaged vote

Note that six elections consist of a highly competitive race won by Republicans (2016 president), a competitive race won by Democrats (2018 Michigan Governor) and four highly competitive races won by Democrats (the rest.) A plan that is not disproportionately partisan in accordance with the Constitution should, when analyzed with this dataset, result in control of the Congressional delegation resting on highly competitive districts, but with a small majority of seats won by Democrats. The presented map does that, showing a 7-6 majority and with a 100% proportionality rating in DRA's analytics, with control of the delegation resting on the highly competitive 3rd and 5th Districts.

I also analyzed this map via Campaign Legal Center's PlanScore system. PlanScore uses four tests to assess the partisan proportionality of a plan: partisan efficiency, declination, partisan bias, and mean-median difference.

PlanScore rated the plan as having extremely low measures of bias.

- Partisan efficiency: 0.2% in favor of the Democratic Party
- Declination: .01 in favor of the Republican Party
- Partisan bias: 1.4% in favor of the Republican Party
- Mean-median difference: 0.4% in favor of the Republican Party

Note that the first and last of these metrics are ones recommended to you by Dr. Handley. Note also that these measures are split between the parties, suggesting that the map is very close to the proportional balance point.

The PlanScore analysis is available here:

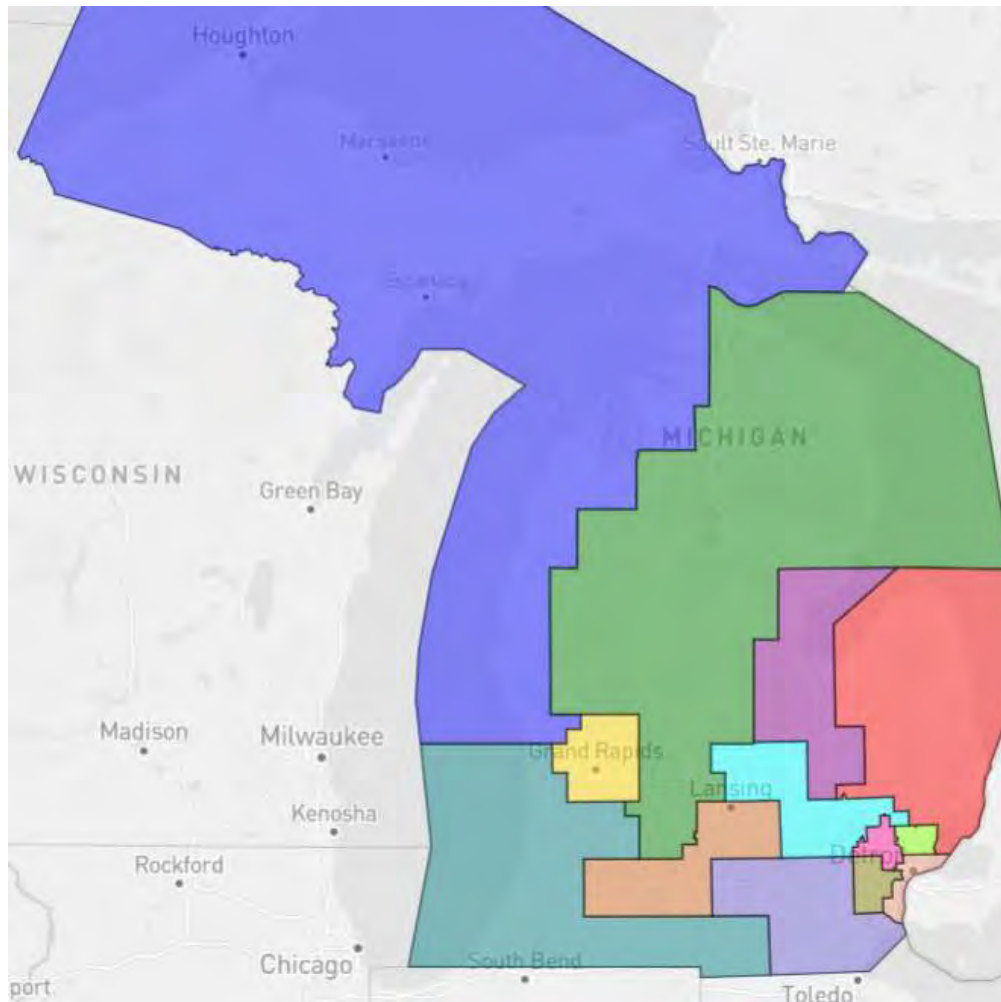
<https://planscore.campaignlegal.org/plan.html?20210908T000015.701524473Z>

Map Overview

The full map is available at

<https://davesredistricting.org/join/eda7fed9-1aee-47eb-b764-994e14ea54eb>

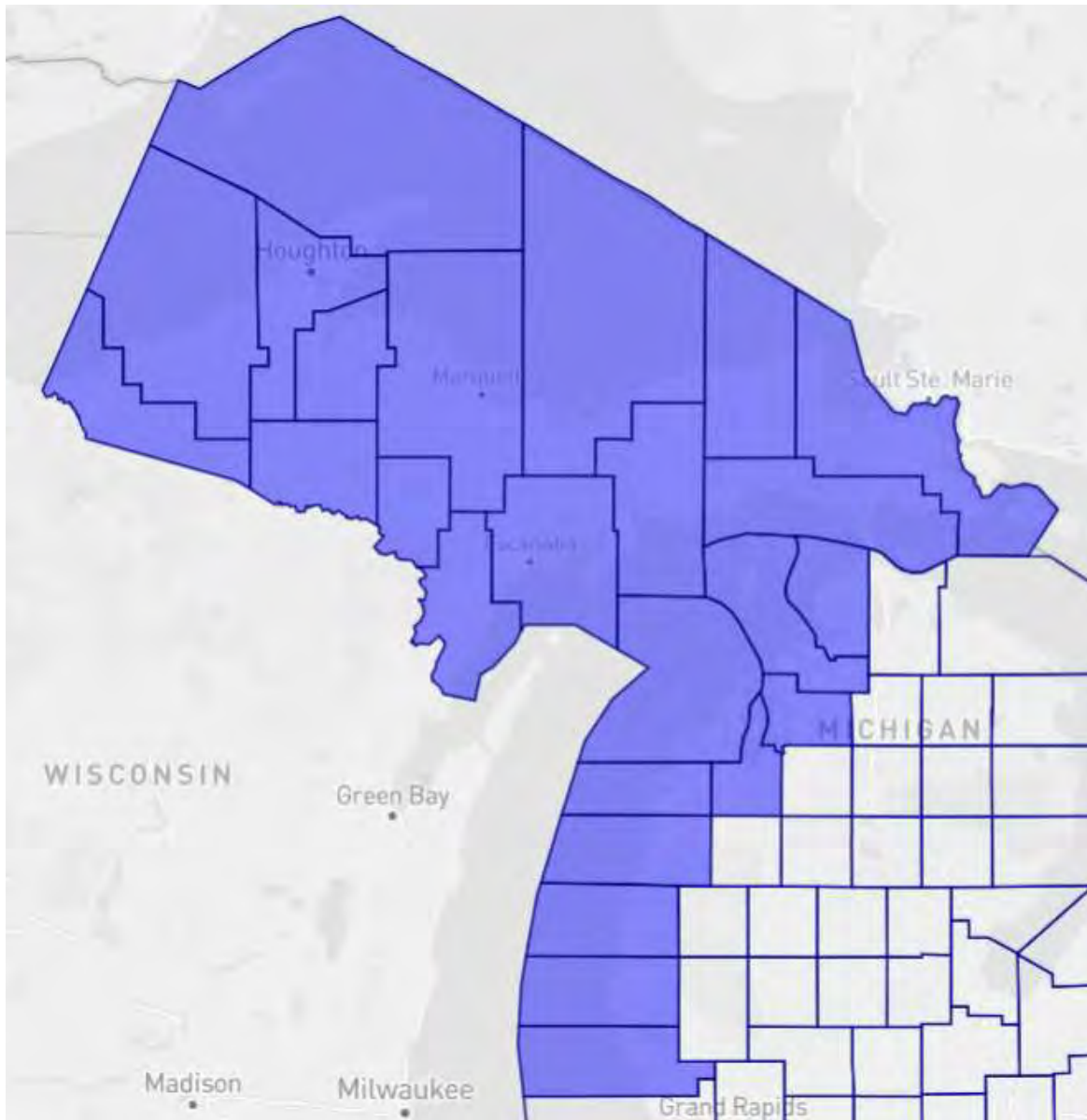
Overview map without county boundaries



The map consists of the following districts:

1. Upper Peninsula and Lake Michigan coast
2. Northern and Central Lower Peninsula
3. Flint and Tri-cities
4. The Thumb
5. Metro Grand Rapids
6. Southeast Michigan
7. West Mid-Michigan
8. East Mid-Michigan
9. Southeast Michigan
10. Detroit and suburban Oakland
11. Suburban Macomb and suburban Oakland
12. Western Wayne County
13. Detroit and Downriver

District 1

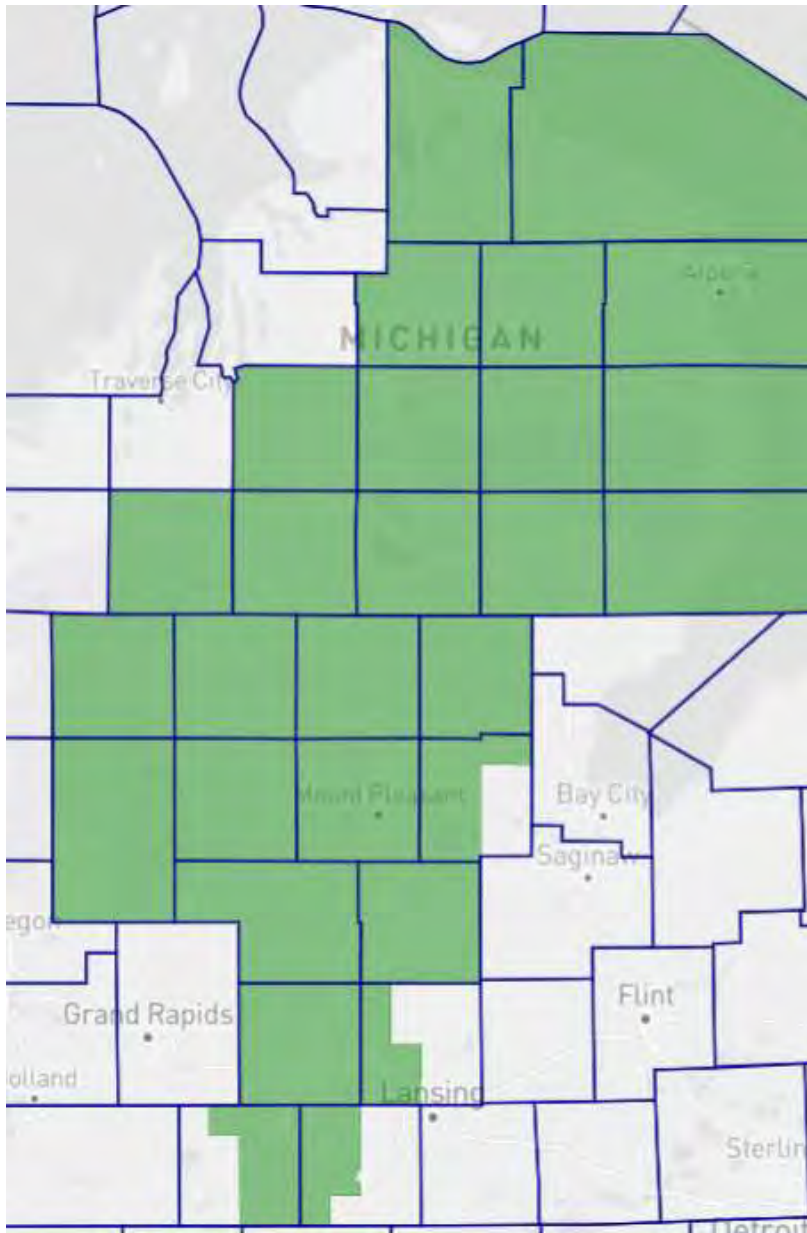


Description: Consists of the Upper Peninsula and the lakeshore counties from Emmet down to Muskegon.

Community of interest comments: This area is bound together by a tourism-focused economy, ecological interests in Lake Superior and Michigan, and a legacy of blue-collar extractive industries like mining and timber.

Proportionality comments: A decade ago, this would have been a highly competitive district with perhaps a slight Democratic tilt. It's now a competitive district with a Republican lean. Although the Greater Traverse City area had a leftward shift in the 2020 elections, most trends in this district favor the Republicans.

District 2

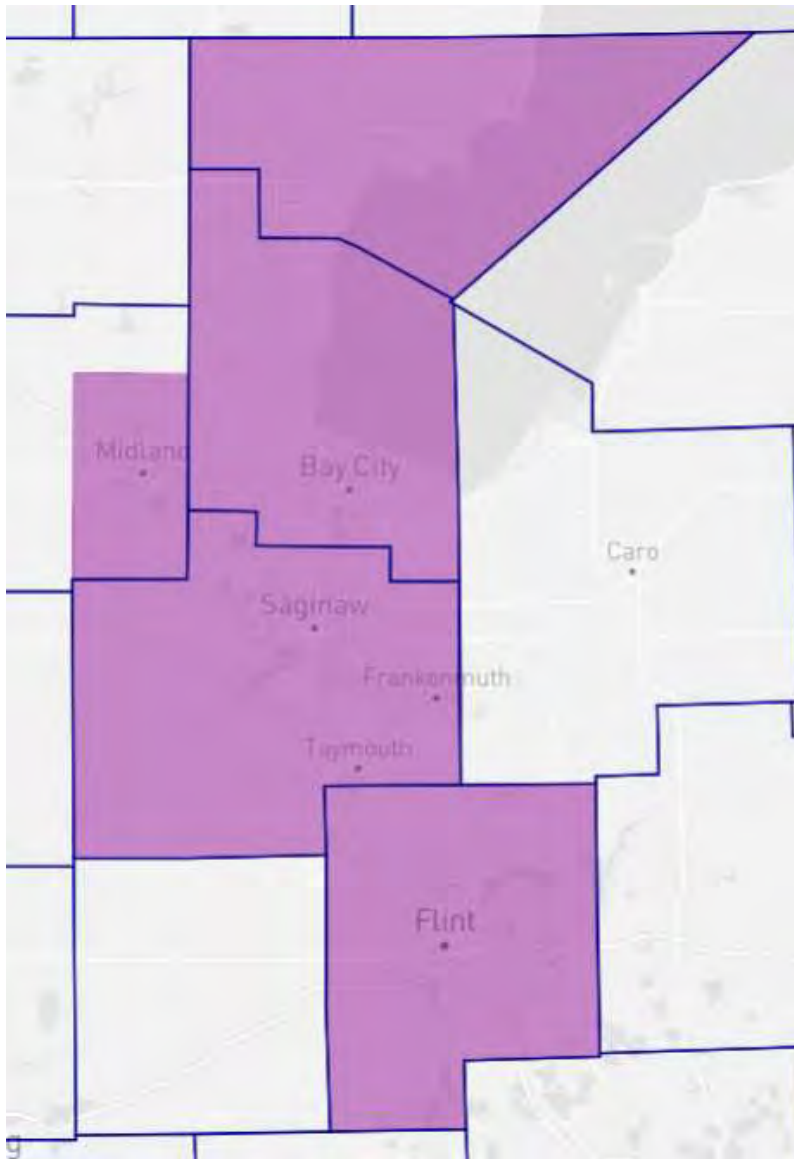


Description: Consists of the Lake Huron shore north of Saginaw Bay and the interior northern Lower Peninsula

Community of interest comments: This area is highly rural, transitioning to exurban and suburban in its southern reaches. Agriculture and outdoor recreation would be significant economic drivers.

Proportionality comments: This is a safe Republican district. Its existence helps offset the effects on proportionality of the metro Detroit districts.

District 3

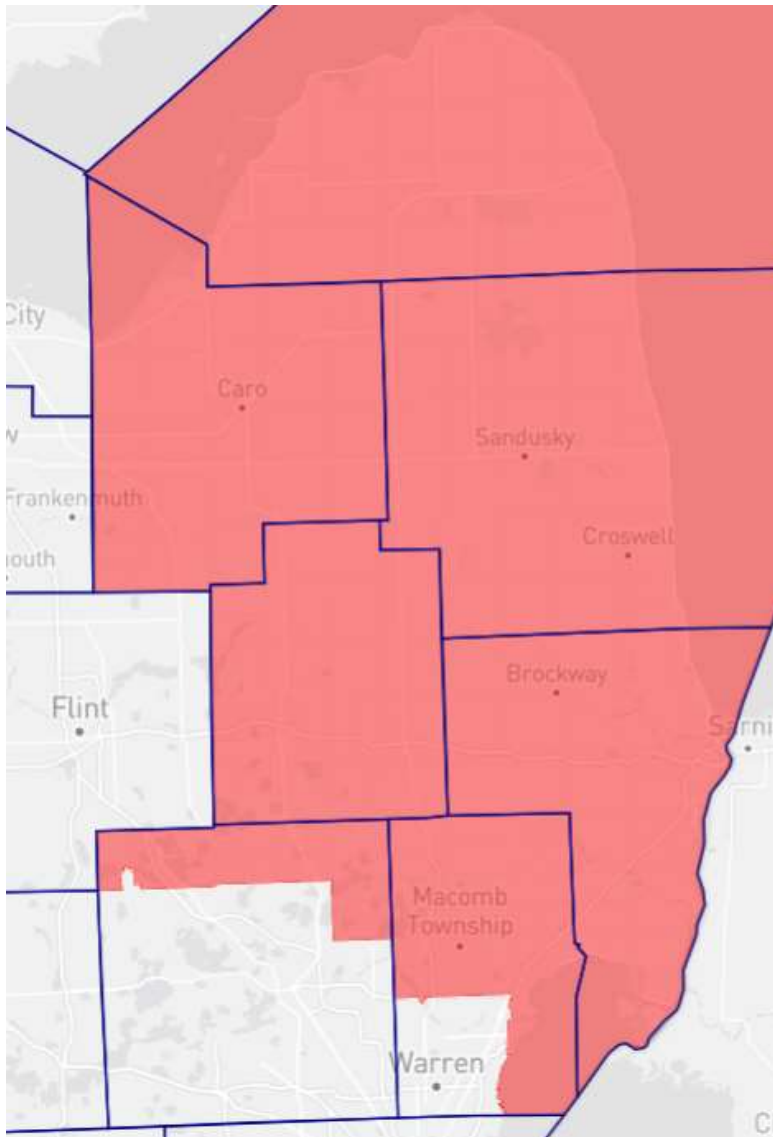


Description: Consists of Arenac, Bay, Genesee, Saginaw, and part of Midland

Community of interest comments: This is a heavily industrial district with similar “Rust Belt” concerns. Public comment heavily favors keeping the Tri-Cities together, and they are a natural demographic match for Flint. Including Arenac in the district helps preserve a Saginaw Bay COI.

Proportionality comments: This is a heavily competitive district. It is traditionally Democratic, but recent shifts in voting patterns by the white working class have moved it in a Republican direction. It would not be unexpected for the district to continue to become more Republican over the upcoming decade. Creating this highly competitive district aids overall proportionality.

District 4

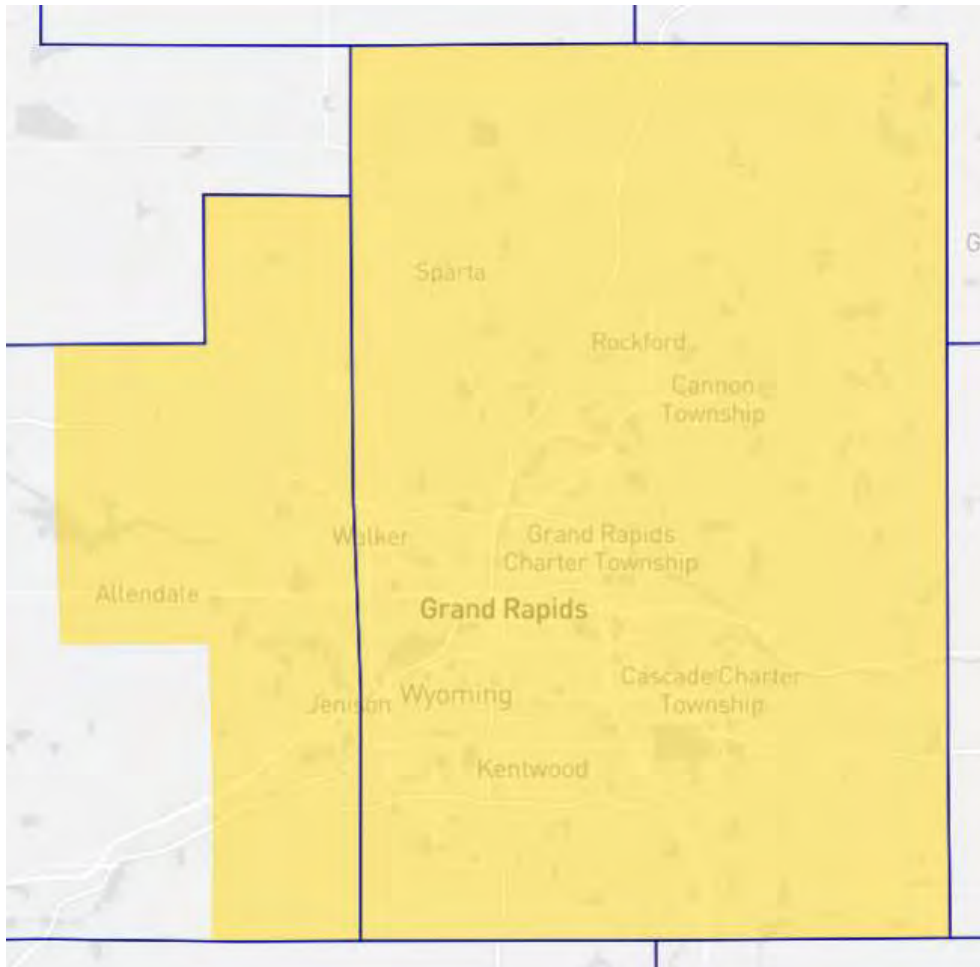


Description: Consists of the Thumb along with northern Macomb and Oakland

Community of Interest comments: This district combines the Thumb with the northern suburbs and exurbs of Macomb and Oakland Counties. This unites the northern regions of Metro Detroit (which by Census Bureau definition include Lapeer and St. Clair) with the rural counties to their north in a district with distinctly non-urban ways of life.

Proportionality comments: This is a safe Republican district. Its existence helps offset the effects on proportionality of the metro Detroit districts.

District 5



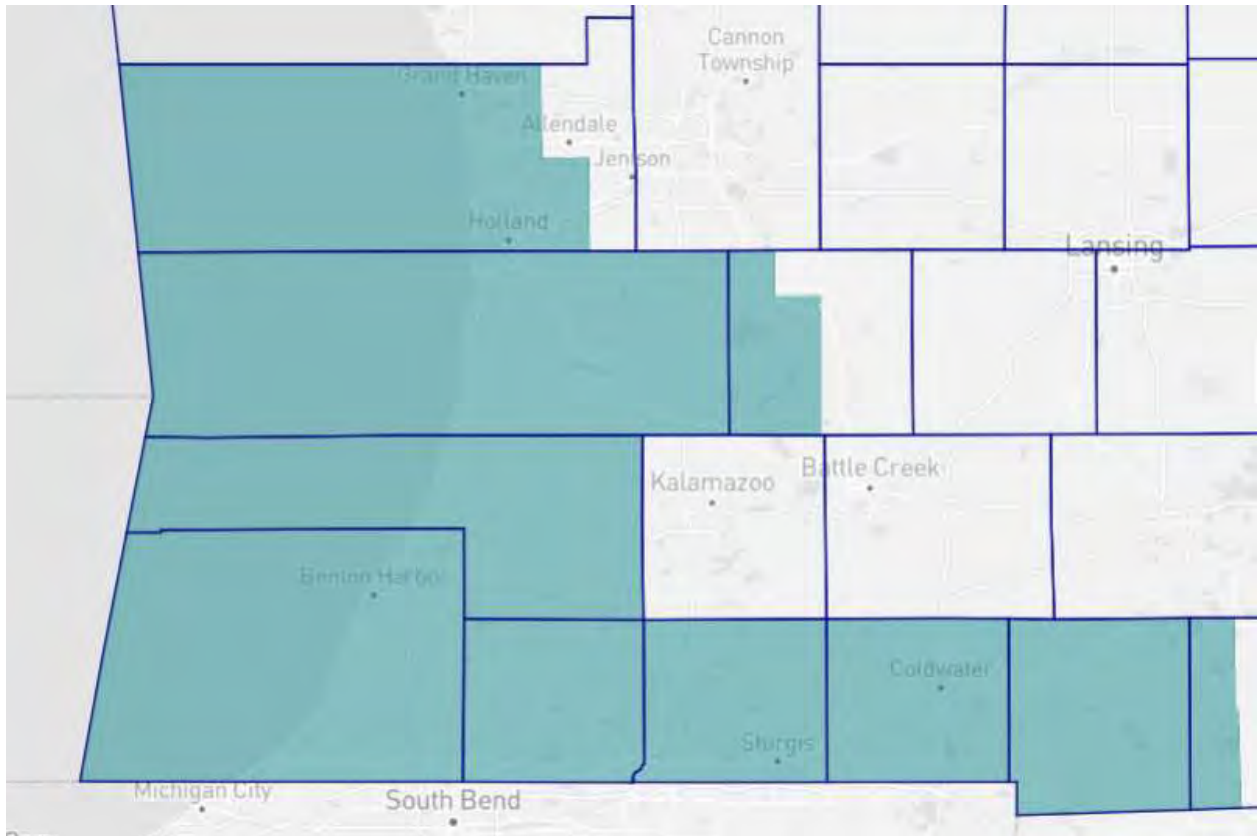
Description: Consists of Kent County along with immediately adjacent suburbs in Ottawa County

Community of interest comments: This is a compact seat for metro Grand Rapids.

Proportionality comments: This is a highly competitive district and the mirror opposite of District 3. Traditionally Republican, Grand Rapids and its diversifying suburbs have been moving in a Democratic direction. It would not be surprising if by the end of the decade, this district is considered Democratic while District 3 is considered Republican. Creating this highly competitive district aids overall proportionality.

Note that the Ottawa suburbs included are highly Republican and are included for COI purposes; otherwise the district would already be tilting Democratic.

District 6

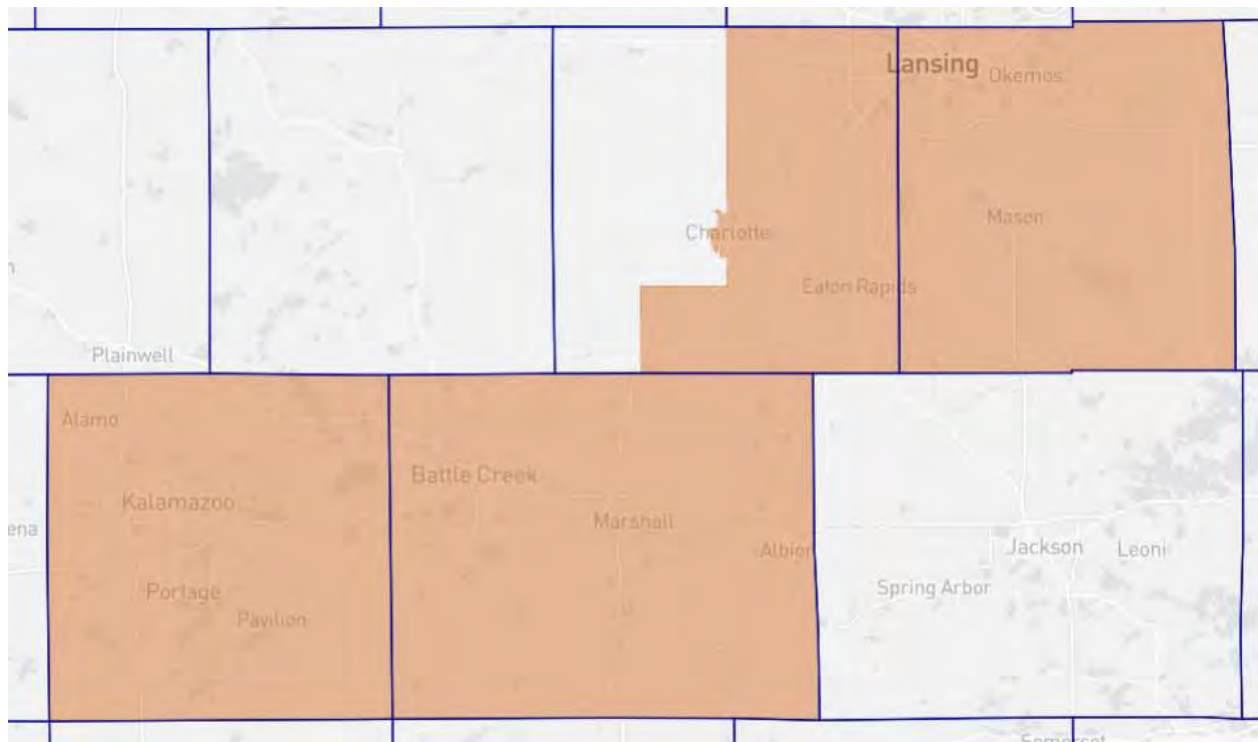


Description: Consists of the southern Lake Michigan shore and the rural southern counties

Community of interest comments: This is admittedly my ugliest, least-compact district (although ugly is not a Constitutional priority and compactness is the lowest priority.) It is drawn to exclude Kalamazoo both to preserve this district as primarily rural and small-town and to create District 7 (next page) as an urban and higher-education focused district.

Proportionality comments: This district is strongly Republican. Its existence helps offset the effects on proportionality of the metro Detroit districts.

District 7



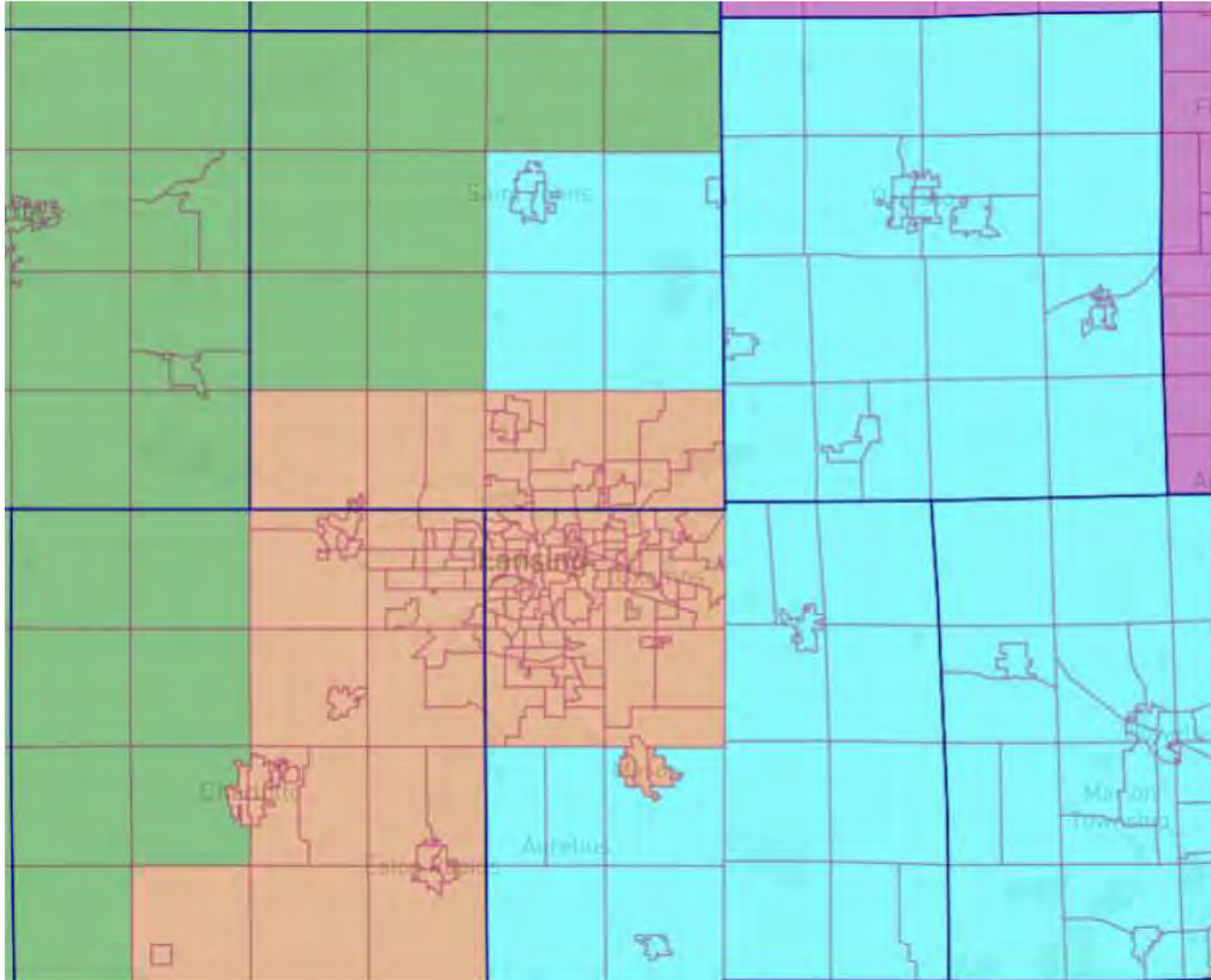
Description: Consists of Calhoun, Ingham, Kalamazoo and most of Eaton

Community of interest comments: This district unites the urban centers of mid-Michigan: Lansing, Kalamazoo, and Battle Creek. It also creates a community of interest around higher-education, with large institutions like Michigan State and Western Michigan and smaller ones like Albion College.

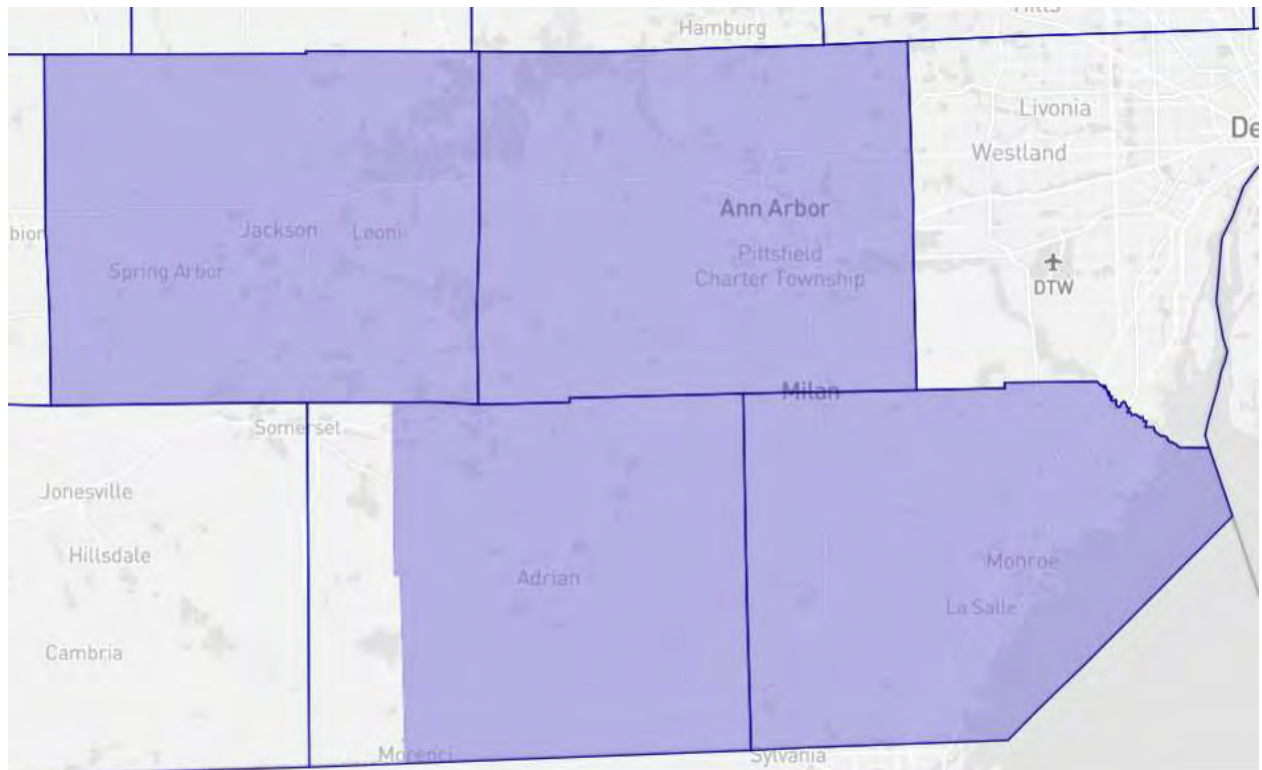
Proportionality comments: Kalamazoo in particular is a problem for proportionality. It is an urban Democratic area surrounded by Republican rurals that could easily drown out its voice. I could not find a highly proportional statewide map that did not combine Kalamazoo with either Grand Rapids proper or with Lansing. I deemed Lansing the better fit because it creates a more balanced two-centered district and allows the large Grand Rapids metro area to anchor its own district.

This district is strongly Democratic and greatly enhances the overall proportionality of the map (in comparison to what would likely be two lean-Republican districts with Kalamazoo and Lansing separated.)

Additional note: If desired, the close-in suburbs of Clinton Township could be swapped for rural Ingham by reconfiguring Districts 2, 7, and 9 as pictured. This might more closely follow communities of interest, at the cost of greater county splitting. It would not have a substantial impact on proportionality.



District 8

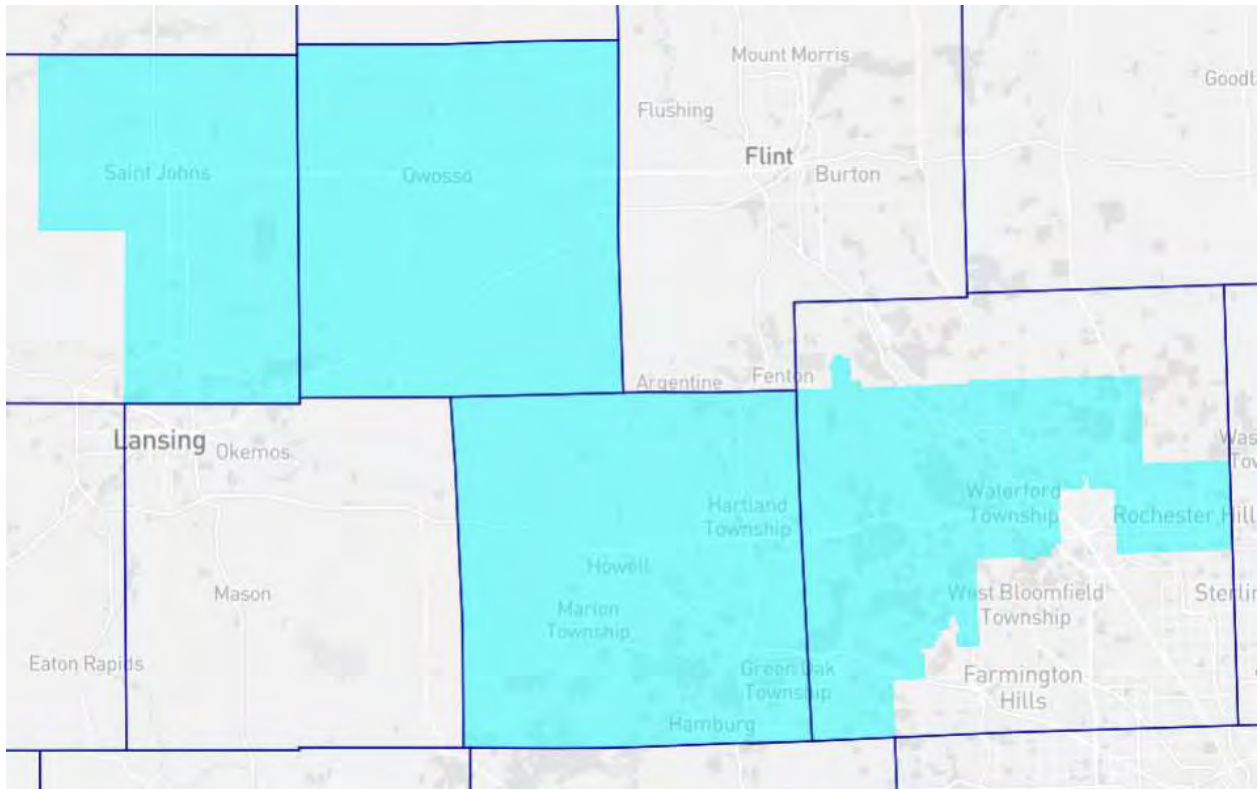


Description: Consists of Jackson, Monroe, Washtenaw, and most of Lenawee

Community of interest comments: This district is anchored by Ann Arbor and reaches into the neighboring counties that contribute to the city's commuter belt to the west and south. In constructing the Detroit-Ann Arbor Combined Statistical Area, the Census Bureau added three of these counties (not Jackson) to the Detroit Metropolitan Statistical Area. This recognizes the economic links among these southeastern counties. These four counties, as geographic neighbors, frequently partner in the governmental and nonprofit sectors.

Proportionality comments: This district is strongly Democratic and at the edge of being competitive with a Democratic lean. This district aids overall proportionality by avoiding packing Ann Arbor with heavily Democratic Detroit suburbs.

District 9

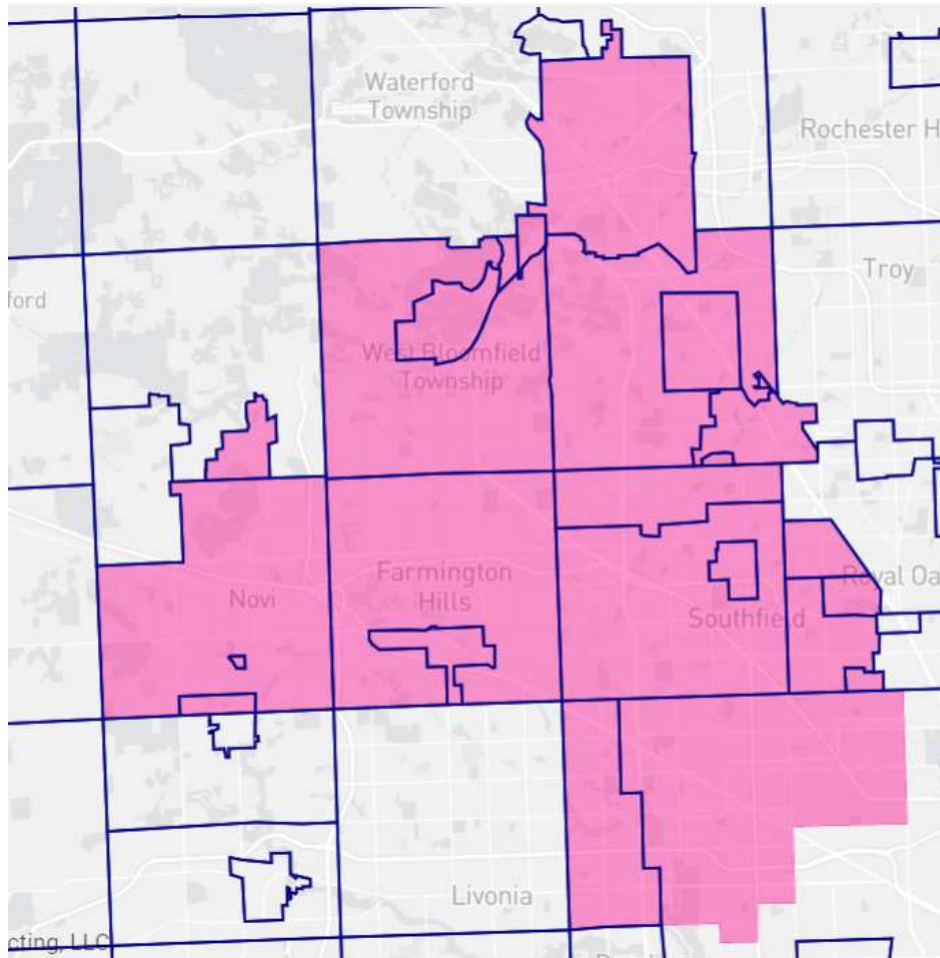


Description: Consists of Livingston and Shiawassee, along with most of Clinton and about half geographically of Oakland

Community of interest comments: This is an exurban district, triangulated by Detroit, Flint, and Lansing. It is essentially a western counterpart to District 4, combining low-density communities past the suburban frontier.

Proportionality comments: This is a strongly Republican district. Its existence helps overall proportionality by the increasing competitiveness of adjacent District 3. (For example, a plausible alternative configuration could join most of the Oakland parts of District 9 with Genesee County and the remainder of District 9 with the Tri-Cities. This would result in two Republican leaning districts instead of a highly competitive one and a strongly Republican one.)

District 10



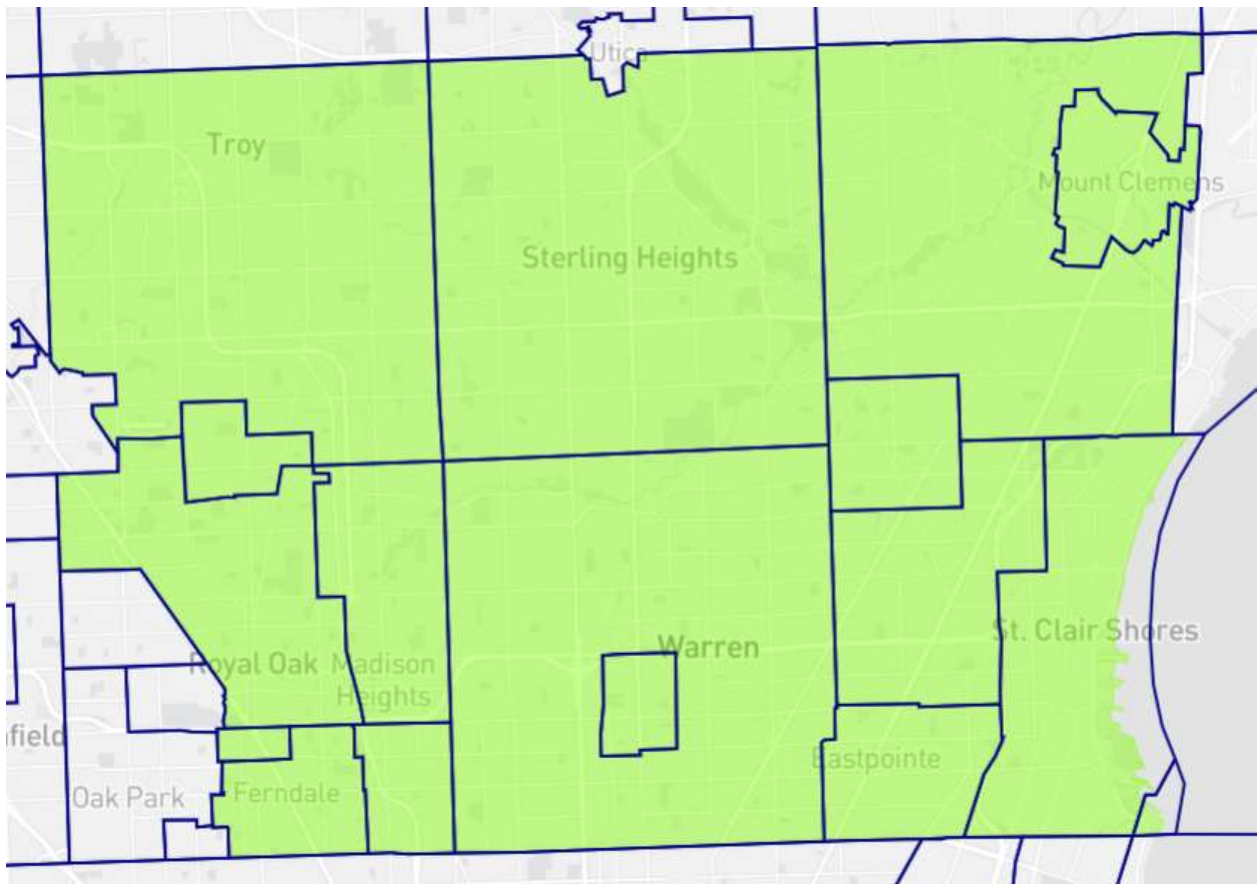
Description: Consists of much of suburban Oakland, along with Redford and western Detroit

Community of interest comments: This is a majority-minority district, at 46% black and 41% white by Voting Age Population. It is anchored in Oakland County and is built around Telegraph Rd. and I-696 as arterials. It is the first district with a municipality split caused by something other than a county line.

Splitting Detroit is necessary to create two majority-minority districts. Note that the district lines in Detroit generally follow notable roads like Livernois and Greenfield. This aids in the comprehensibility of the district for the public.

Proportionality comments: This is a safe Democratic district, as most majority-minority districts can be expected to be. It is counterbalanced in the overall plan by rural districts like Districts 2 and 6.

District 11

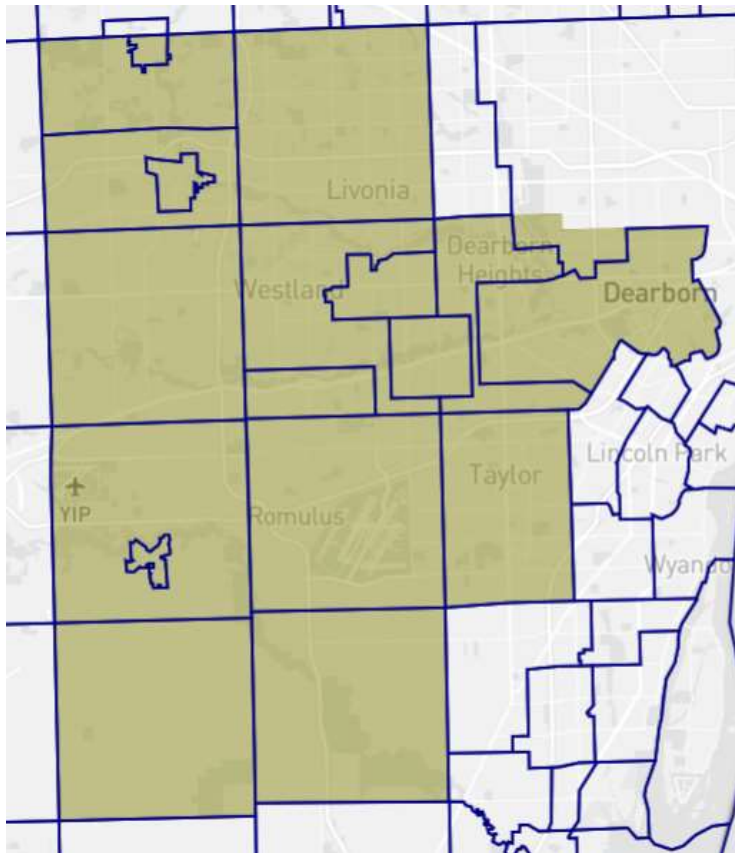


Description: Consists of southeastern Oakland and southern Macomb

Community of interest comments: This is a very basic “east side” suburban Detroit district, taking in the cities east of Woodward and between Eight Mile Rd. and M-59.

Proportionality comments: This district is competitive with a Democratic lean. Its competitiveness assists with the overall proportionality of the map.

District 12



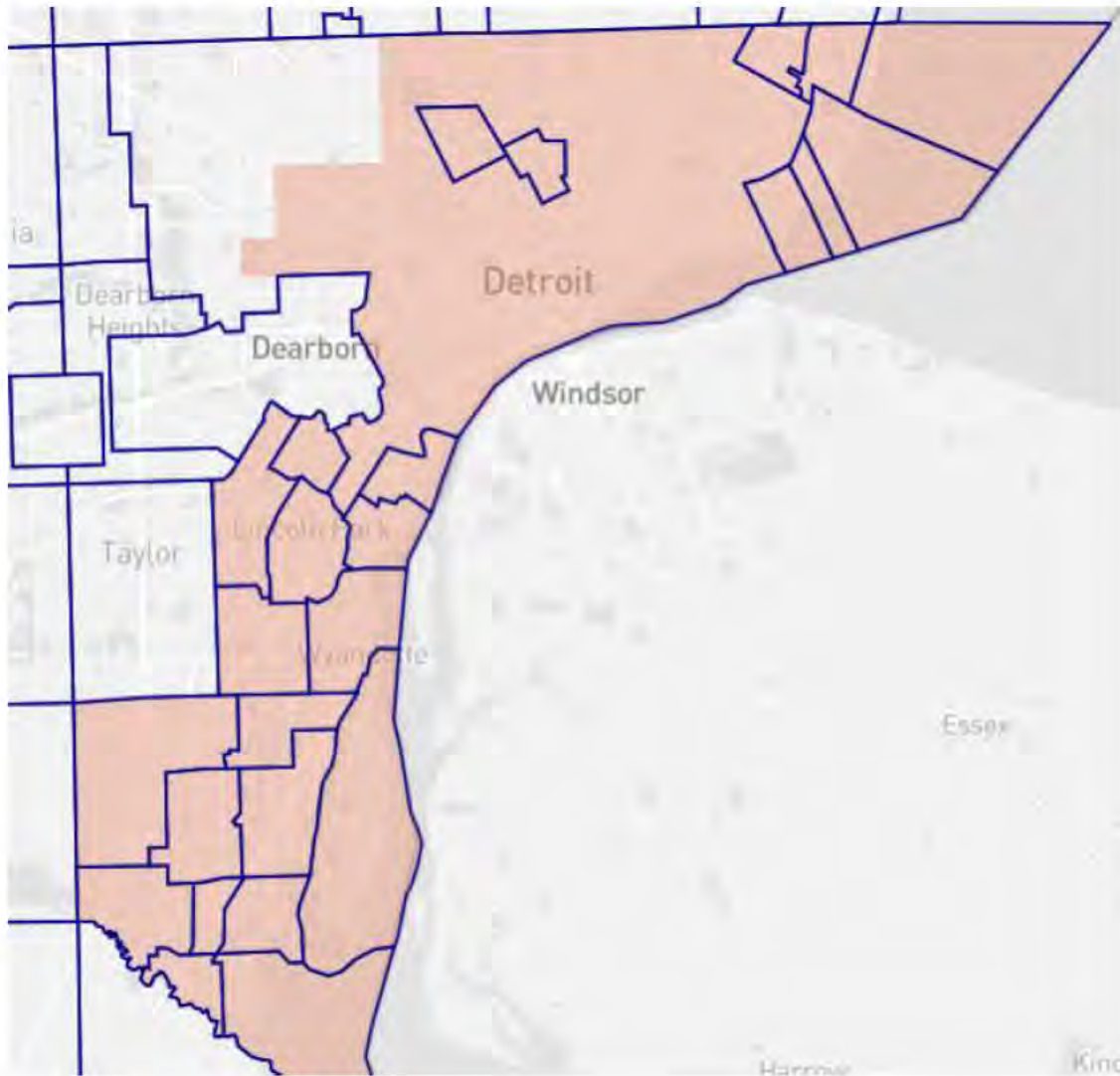
Description: Consist of Western Wayne County

Community of interest comments: This is a compact seat wholly within Wayne County with a focus on the western suburbs. It contains the second municipal split of the map, where it takes in the Warrendale area of Detroit for population equality purposes.

Note the Detroit boundaries are along notable roads: Joy, Evergreen, and Tireman. This aids in the comprehensibility of the district for the public.

Proportionality comments: This is a strongly Democratic district. It counterbalances exurban districts like Districts 9 in the overall proportionality of the plan.

District 13



Description: Consists of most of Detroit and its enclaves along with all of Downriver

Community of Interest comments: This is a majority-minority district at 46% black and 41% white by Voting Age Population. It combines the entire shoreline of Wayne County. It also preserves all of Downriver in a single district, which has been highly requested by public comment.

It features the final split of Detroit, which as has been previously mentioned, is along notable roadways.

Proportionality comments: This is a safe Democratic district, as most majority-minority districts can be expected to be. It is counterbalanced in the overall plan by rural districts like Districts 2 and 6.

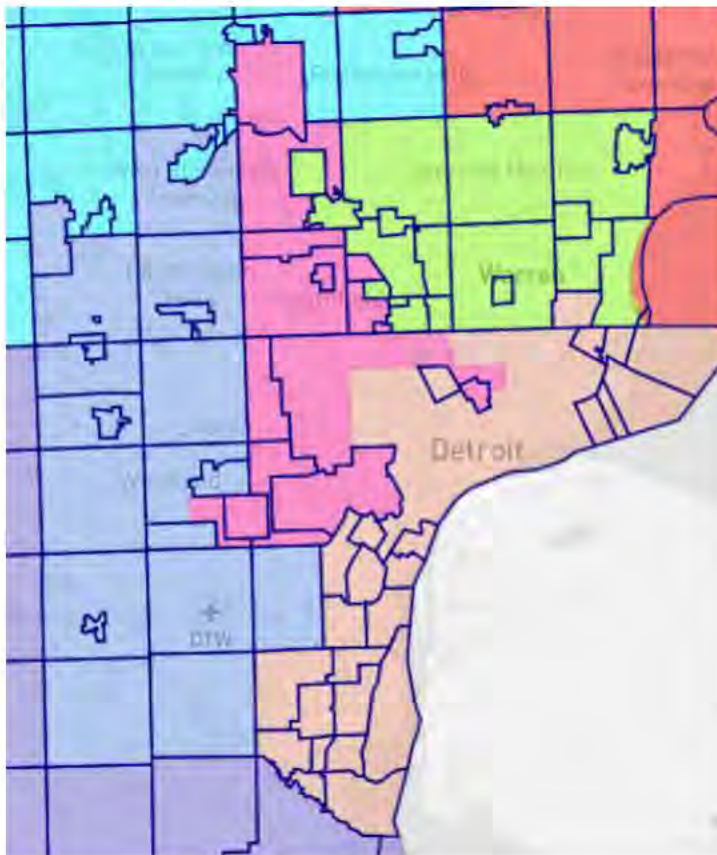
Alternative metro Detroit configuration

I have been told but have been unable to verify that the commission's preliminary advice from legal counsel is that the Detroit-based districts need to be at least 48% black by Voting Age Population. Both of my proposed districts are 46%.

I believe that 48% is an overly cautious number. Both of these districts are safe Democratic, and black Democrats should control both district's primaries by a roughly 3-2 margin. (I admit that calculation is from naive arithmetic.) I hope that more detailed analysis by legal counsel would show that my proposed districts properly protect minority voting rights.

If not, however, I present an alternative configuration of Districts 10 through 13. This gets both Detroit districts up above 48% black Voting Age Population. Unsurprisingly, however, packing additional minority voters into two already heavily-Democratic districts harms the proportionality of the plan, and I would prefer to avoid it if at all possible. The plan becomes 2% less proportional by DRA's metric, and all PlanScore metrics move in a Republican direction. (Partisan efficiency now favors Republicans by .8%, declination by .04, partisan bias by 2.7%, and mean-median by .7%.)

<https://planscore.campaignlegal.org/plan.html?20210908T022501,764015670Z>



Conclusion

The presented plan demonstrates that it is possible to adhere to the Constitutional priorities of equality of population and fidelity to federal law, contiguity, and preserving communities of interest, while also maximizing partisan proportionality. I hope that it will serve as a useful model for the commissioners as they seek to implement their Constitutional mandate. I thank the commissioners for their consideration.

RESOLUTION REGARDING DECENNIAL REDISTRICTING

WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution calls for a decennial Census of the population of the country and a reapportionment of representatives to the United States House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, upon completion of the Census every 10 years, states are required to approve new districts for the U.S. House of Representative as well as state office districts for state representatives and state senators;

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Michigan have established a Redistricting Commission to undertake the development and approval of redistricting plans based on the 2020 Census, and to take effect starting in 2022;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court and the Michigan Constitution have established principles that the redistricting process must meet;

WHEREAS, redistricting plans are required to follow principles of being compact, contiguous, respecting borders of municipalities and natural geographic features, respecting minority voter rights to representation, and keeping communities with similar interests together;

WHEREAS, the six small municipalities consisting of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods comprise all of the suburban communities of the northeastern corner of Wayne County and a tiny part of Macomb County;

WHEREAS, the citizens of all of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods have lived for decades as one community sharing a multitude of services including one public school system serving all of the Grosse Pointes and a portion of Harper Woods, shared mutual aid for police and fire, and many other services and expenses forming a single community of interest;

WHEREAS, the redistricting plan in place for the last decade divided this community of interest into two districts: State District 1 consisting of Grosse Pointe Shores, Grosse Pointe Woods, Harper Woods, and a neighboring part of Detroit, and State District 2 consisting of Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe City, Grosse Pointe Park, and a portion of Detroit, two State Senate districts, and a Congressional district stretching in convoluted fashion all the way to Pontiac;

WHEREAS, division of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods into multiple legislatives districts does not respect the long-established redistricting principle to draw elected representatives' district boundaries to respect communities of interest;

AND WHEREAS, redistricting should allow a long-time combined community, its residents, businesses, infrastructure, and the community as a whole, to be represented together to have an effective and unified voice in Lansing and Washington, D.C.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Grosse Pointe Farms requests the Michigan Redistricting Commission approve a redistricting plan keeping Grosse Pointe Farms and its neighbors in the same state and federal legislative districts, and that a copy of this resolution be immediately provided to the members of the Michigan Restricting Commission for their consideration.

AYES: Mayor Louis Theros, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Ricci, Councilmembers James C. Farquhar, John J. Gillooly, Beth Konrad-Wilberding, Neil Sroka and Lev Wood.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Made and passed this 9th day of August, 2021.

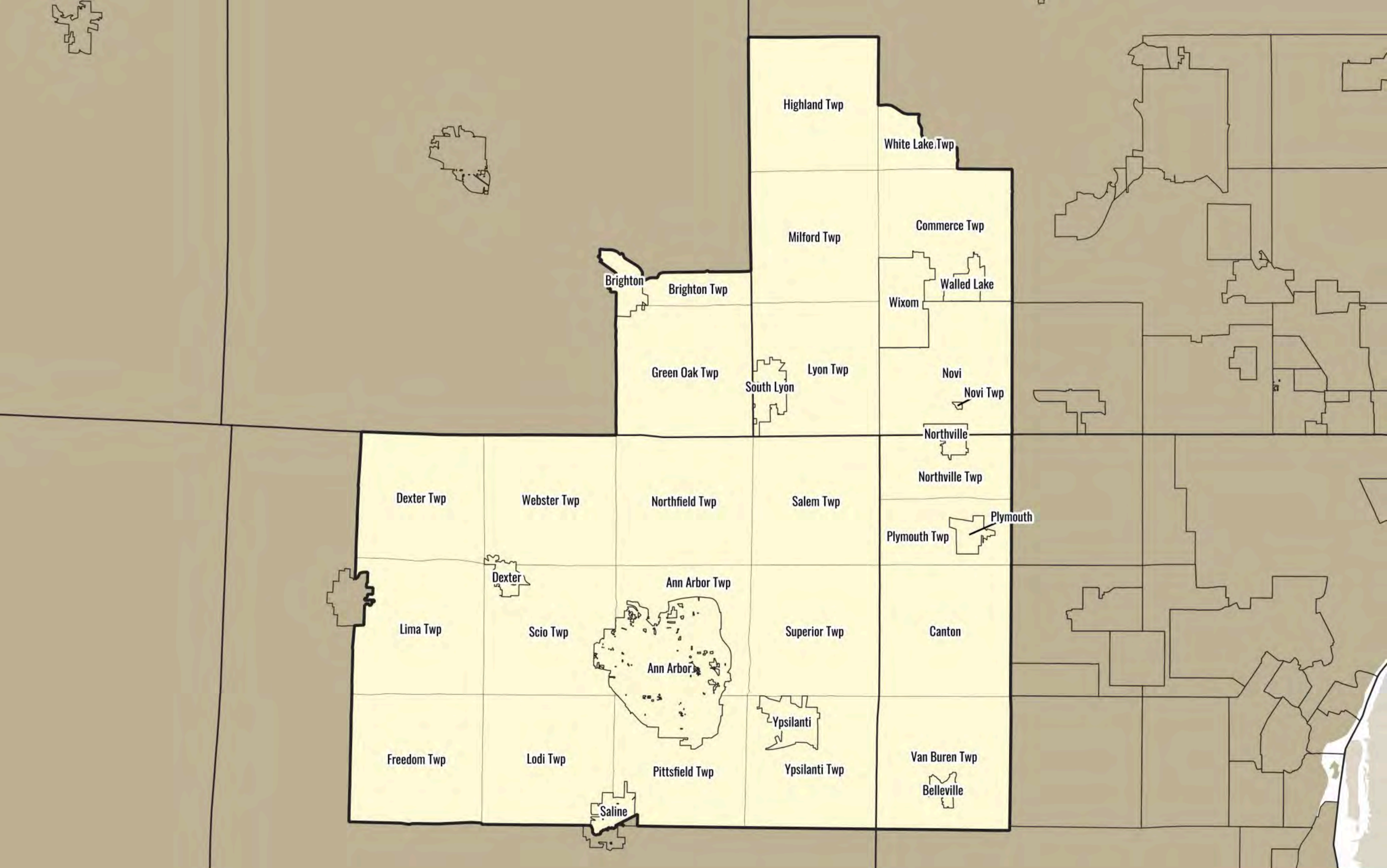
I, Derrick Kozicki, the duly authorized Clerk of the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the City of Grosse Pointe Farms City Council on August 9, 2021.



Name: Derrick Kozicki

City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk

County of Wayne, Michigan



Highland Twp

White Lake Twp

Milford Twp

Commerce Twp

Brighton

Brighton Twp

Walled Lake

Wixom

Green Oak Twp

South Lyon

Lyon Twp

Novi

Novi Twp

Northville

Northville Twp

Dexter Twp

Webster Twp

Northfield Twp

Salem Twp

Plymouth Twp

Plymouth

Dexter

Ann Arbor Twp

Lima Twp

Scio Twp



Ann Arbor

Superior Twp

Canton

Ypsilanti

Freedom Twp

Lodi Twp

Pittsfield Twp

Ypsilanti Twp

Van Buren Twp

Belleville

Saline

Cover Letter for State Senate Submission

Dear Commissioners,

I was a fellow applicant to the commissioner pool, equally committed to the cause of Fair Districts in Michigan. This submission is an honest effort to draw a State Senate map subject to the same guidelines and priorities laid out for you in the Michigan Constitution:

- Equality of population and compliance with federal law
- Contiguity
- Protection of communities of interest
- Avoidance of partisan disproportionality
- No consideration for incumbents
- Respect for county and municipal boundaries
- Reasonable compactness

I gave particular attention to priority four while still giving full diligence to the items above it. As you may already be discovering, the avoidance of partisan disproportionality is a difficult task given our contemporary political environment. It will require a careful and specific focus on your part in order to fulfill this priority. This proposed plan has very low levels of partisan bias – it favors Republicans by only about two percent on two of the metrics your consultant recommended to you.

In full disclosure: I applied as a Democratic commissioner. I do not believe that I allowed my own partisan preferences to unduly persuade me, but I will let you be the judge of that.

Finally, I would like to ask that you review my proposed District 7 in particular. I believe that it brings together an important community of interest across the Wayne-Washtenaw border that the commission might otherwise miss.

Sincerely,
Corey Mason
Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan

Principles and Priorities

I am a longtime political enthusiast with a graduate-level education in political science and a genuine enjoyment of electoral cartography. That is to say that I am a nerd who has thought a lot about this stuff. I'd like to start with a short summary of my approach to district-drawing and my assessment and use of the Constitutional priorities guiding the commission.

My approach to district-drawing is fundamentally iterative and collaborative. The districts I'm presenting are the result of dozens of hours of drawing and redrawing and are informed by the perspectives of a number of other plans I've reviewed. I would encourage the commission to be diligent in trying and considering a variety of approaches to the problems of districting-drawing -- in my experience, the first few maps attempted for any given purpose will benefit greatly from synthesizing a variety of ideas and from iterative refinement.

With regards to the Constitutional priorities of the commission:

Equality of population and compliance with federal law

Version 9.6 of the commission's *Mapping Process and Procedures* gives a maximum population deviation of +/- 5% for state legislative districts (that is, a 10% range from the smallest to the largest districts by population). This gives mapmakers flexibility to protect other important priorities like the ones in the Michigan Constitution.

I made full use of this flexibility, with a net deviation of 9.69%. This deviation was never used for the purposes of partisan proportionality (for example, making one party's districts systematically larger than the others.) It was instead used to comply with the municipal boundary priority.

Compliance with federal law regarding minority voting rights was at the forefront of my mind in drawing, especially in metro Detroit. Analyzing a map for Voting Rights Act ("VRA") compliance requires attorneys, but this is an honest lay effort to protect minority voting rights.

Contiguity

All districts are contiguous by land, except District 37 which must cross the Straits of Mackinac for population equality.

Protections of communities of interest and avoidance of partisan disproportionality

I am going to discuss these two elements together because they are at the heart of what Fair Districts are all about -- these two elements are what is truly new about redistricting in Michigan this cycle. If the commission does not succeed at implementing both of these priorities, then I think it will have failed to carry out the vision of Fair Districts.

Gerrymandering is bad for a variety of reasons, but the two most important are covered by these priorities. Gerrymandering frequently unites very disparate regions for partisan advantage. It also, by definition, is an attempt to lock in partisan advantage over and against the collective will of the voters.

Michigan's current map, from the 2010 redistricting cycle, exemplifies both of these tendencies. It ignores communities of interest by separating urban areas from each other, drowning them with rural voters. (See current districts 16, 19 and 31, which were intended to smother any possibility of Democratic senators from Jackson, Battle Creek, and Bay City, respectively.) It also locked in an enduring Republican majority, despite the fact the Democratic state senate candidates have frequently won more votes in the statewide aggregate.

(In fact, Republican gerrymanders have locked up the state legislature for two decades, despite the fact that Michigan has been a competitive-to-Democratic leaning state in statewide elections during that time period.)

It is important to note that these two priorities cover different areas of analysis. Communities of interest are analyzed on a district-by-district basis; partisan proportionality is analyzed on a statewide level. Giving both of these priorities the attention they deserve will require a careful interplay of consideration of both individual districts and the overall plan.

Communities of interest are real and important. The commission has done an admirable job in soliciting and reviewing public comment to help it understand how voters view their communities. However, there will be some significant hindrances in being able to analyze how well the commission fulfilled this priority. Communities of interest are inherently subjective, amorphous, and qualitative; and it will be difficult to analyze the commission's success at protecting them.

This is in no way to undermine the importance the commission should place on communities of interest. It is simply to recognize that measuring the commission's success in this area will ultimately be ambiguous.

By contrast, partisan proportionality is quantitative and easily determined. You will be able to know whether you succeeded or failed at this task. I sincerely hope that the commission is dedicated to succeeding at implementing this priority.

A side note on communities of interest: because communities of interest are inherently subjective and because I did not have access to all of the commission's testimony and public comment, I tried to think of other ways of operationalizing the concept when working on this map. One item that I considered very strongly was internal transportation links. A number of the districts presented are attempts to link communities along major roads and highways. Transportation links are fundamental to the creation of community - social and commercial opportunities exist along major arterials that enable community. Districts 7, 15, and 22 are particularly marked by this thinking.

No consideration for incumbents

No consideration for incumbents was given when drawing the maps. I am broadly unfamiliar with where state senators live, and term limits mean that the map drawn this cycle will outlive all current incumbents anyway.

Respect for County and Municipal Boundaries

From my perspective, this priority has two functions. First, it makes it easier to determine who your legislator is. "Oh, you live in Westland. Your senator is _____." Second, it eases election administration by not requiring the local governments that run elections to manage multiple ballots. (As a Plymouth Township poll-worker for the past five years, I am very sensitive to this aspect.)

The proposed map is extremely respectful of municipal boundaries. Only Detroit, Sterling Heights, and Grand Rapids were split. Detroit must be split because it is so large. Sterling Heights is surrounded by other high population cities and was the most convenient to be split for population equality. Grand Rapids was split for partisan proportionality, which is explained when describing its two districts.

I usually prioritized not splitting municipalities over not splitting counties when the two were in conflict. In most cases, the opposite choice could be made without harm to the map.

The most difficult element of this provision is the number of cities that have unannexed land within them. The vast majority of my municipal splits come either from this or from a municipality crossing county lines.

Reasonable compactness

Compactness is normally a high priority in discussing redistricting reform. Gerrymandering is often mocked by showing highly contorted districts. But the framers of the Fair Districts Amendment placed it last among the priorities for the commission. With that in mind, I strove to maintain reasonable compactness where it did not hinder higher priorities. The application I used gave the overall plan a 77% compactness score.

It is important to note that compactness will tend to advantage the Republican party in our contemporary political environment. Democratic voters tend to cluster in urban areas, which the unwary mapmaker can then unintentionally pack in highly Democratic districts. Republicans then win many more suburban and rural seats with small but durable majorities.

Finally, I would like to note a priority that isn't presented -- aesthetics. Districts that "look nice" are excellent when feasible, but aesthetic considerations should never hinder the commission's dedication to its Constitutional duties.

Methods and Terminology

My application of choice for redistricting projects is Dave's Redistricting App ("DRA").

Due to my commitment to the Constitutional priority of partisan proportionality, I drew all maps with partisan data visible (unlike the commission's multi-stage process.)

Descriptions of political competitiveness are based on DRA's "Composite 2016-2020" data, which averages the results of the following contests:

- 2016 US President
- 2018 US Senator
- 2018 Michigan Governor
- 2018 Michigan Attorney General
- 2020 US President
- 2020 US Senator

I use four descriptions of competitiveness based on this average.

- Highly competitive - neither party received more than 52.5% of the averaged vote
- Competitive with a (Republic/Democratic) lean - one party won between 52.5% and 55% of the averaged vote
- Strongly (Republican/Democratic) - one party won between 55% and 60% of the averaged vote
- Safe (Republican/Democratic) - one party won more than 60% of the averaged vote

Note that six elections consist of a highly competitive race won by Republicans (2016 president), a competitive race won by Democrats (2018 Michigan Governor) and four highly competitive races won by Democrats (the rest.) A plan that is not disproportionately partisan in accordance with the Constitution should, when analyzed with this dataset, result in control of the State Senate resting on highly competitive districts, but with a small majority of seats won by Democrats. The presented map does that, showing a 21-17 Democratic majority and with a 100% proportionality rating in DRA's analytics. Control of the Senate (again, analyzed with this data set) would rest on District 32, a highly competitive district covering the Tri-Cities.

I also analyzed this map via Campaign Legal Center's PlanScore system. PlanScore uses four tests to assess the partisan proportionality of a plan: partisan efficiency, declination, partisan bias, and mean-median difference.

PlanScore rated the plan as having very low measures of bias.

- Partisan efficiency: 1.9% in favor of the Republican Party
- Declination: .09 in favor of the Republican Party
- Partisan bias: 2.5% in favor of the Republican Party
- Mean-median difference: 0.9% in favor of the Republican Party

Note that the first and last of these metrics are ones recommended to you by Dr. Handley.

The PlanScore analysis is available here:

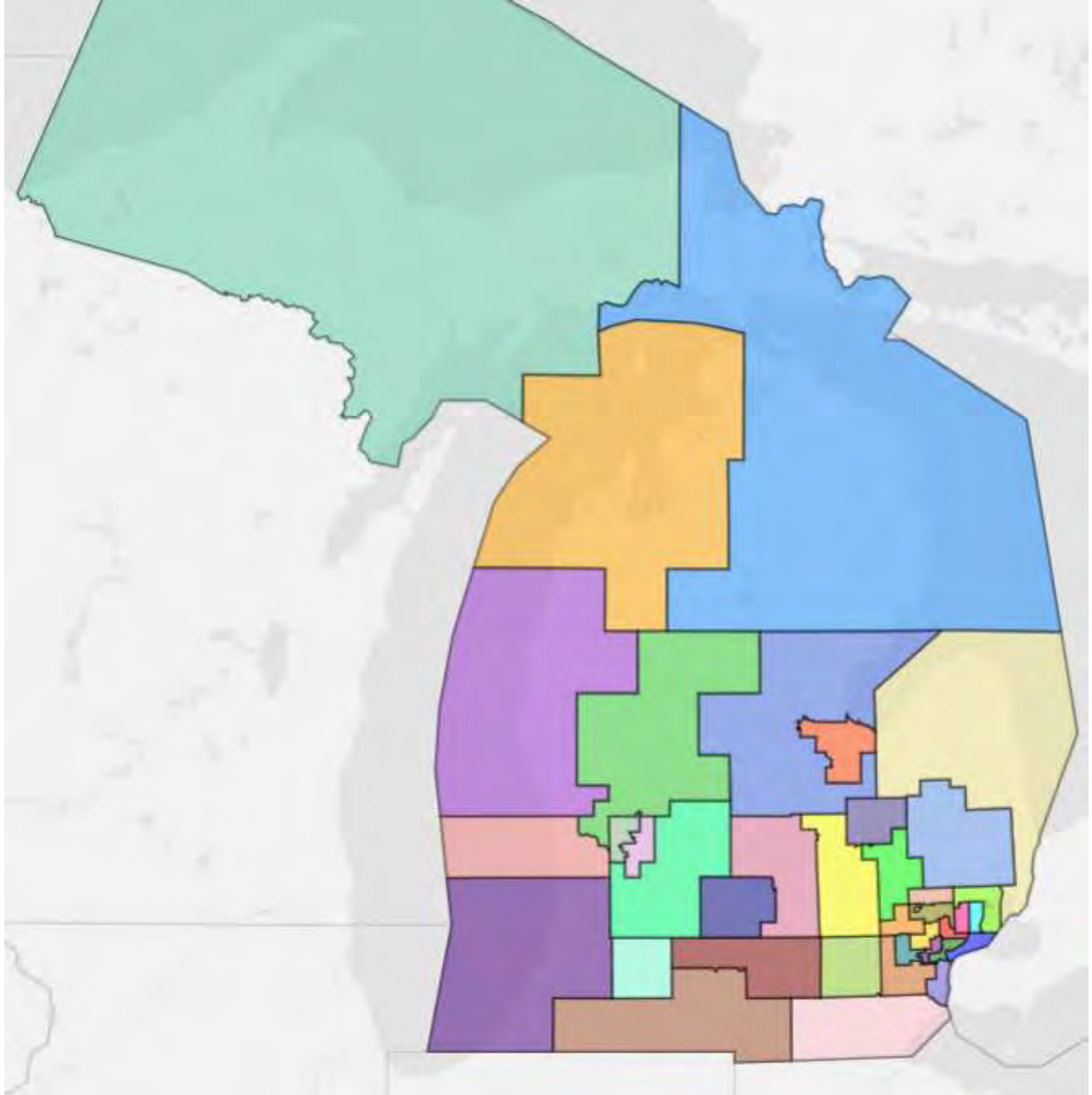
<https://planscore.campaignlegal.org/plan.html?20210908T163922.934916241Z>

Plan Overview

The full map is available at

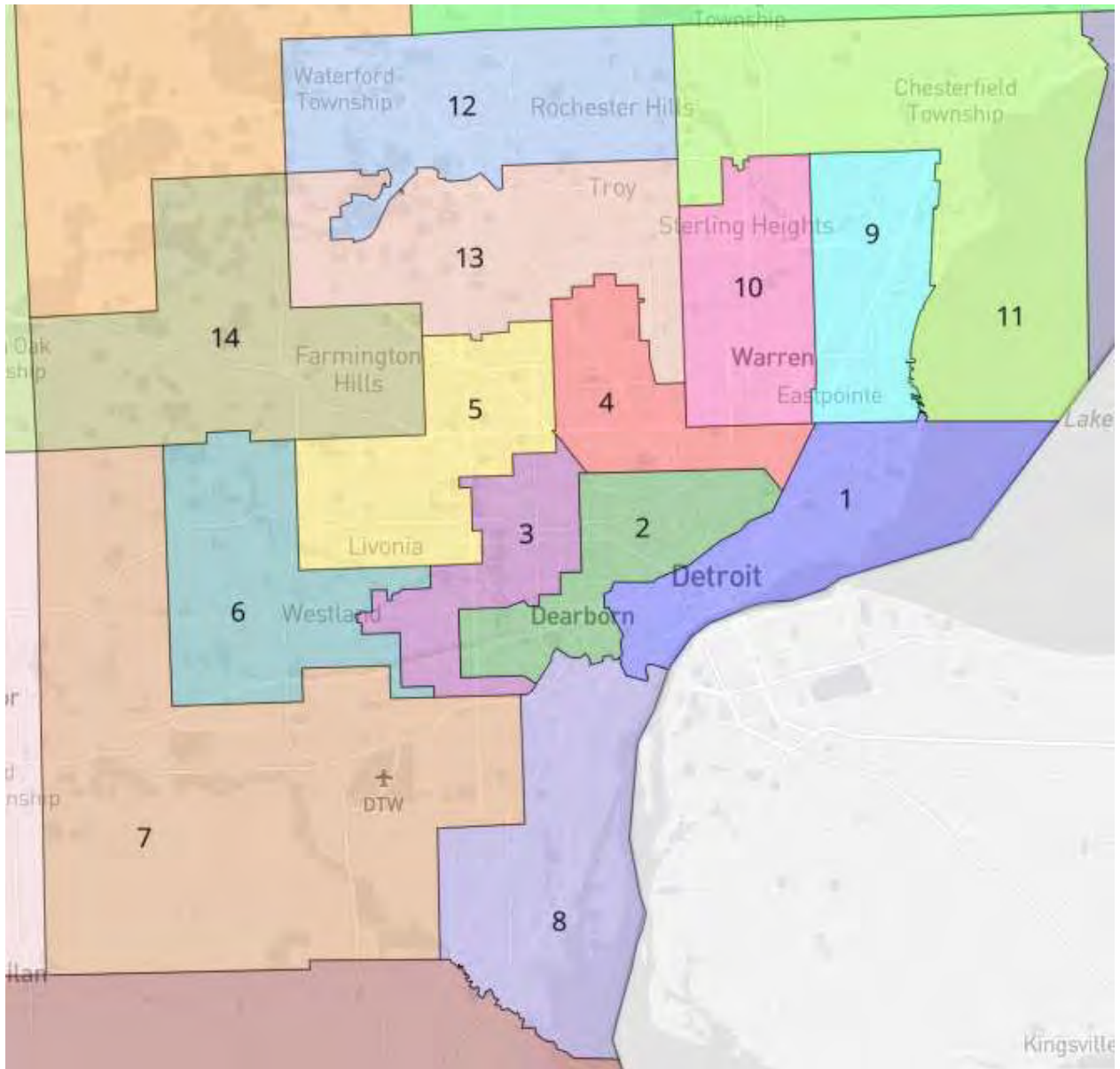
<https://davesredistricting.org/join/c7c24994-fc64-4d9b-be60-5ba8bca918b0>.

Overview map without county boundaries

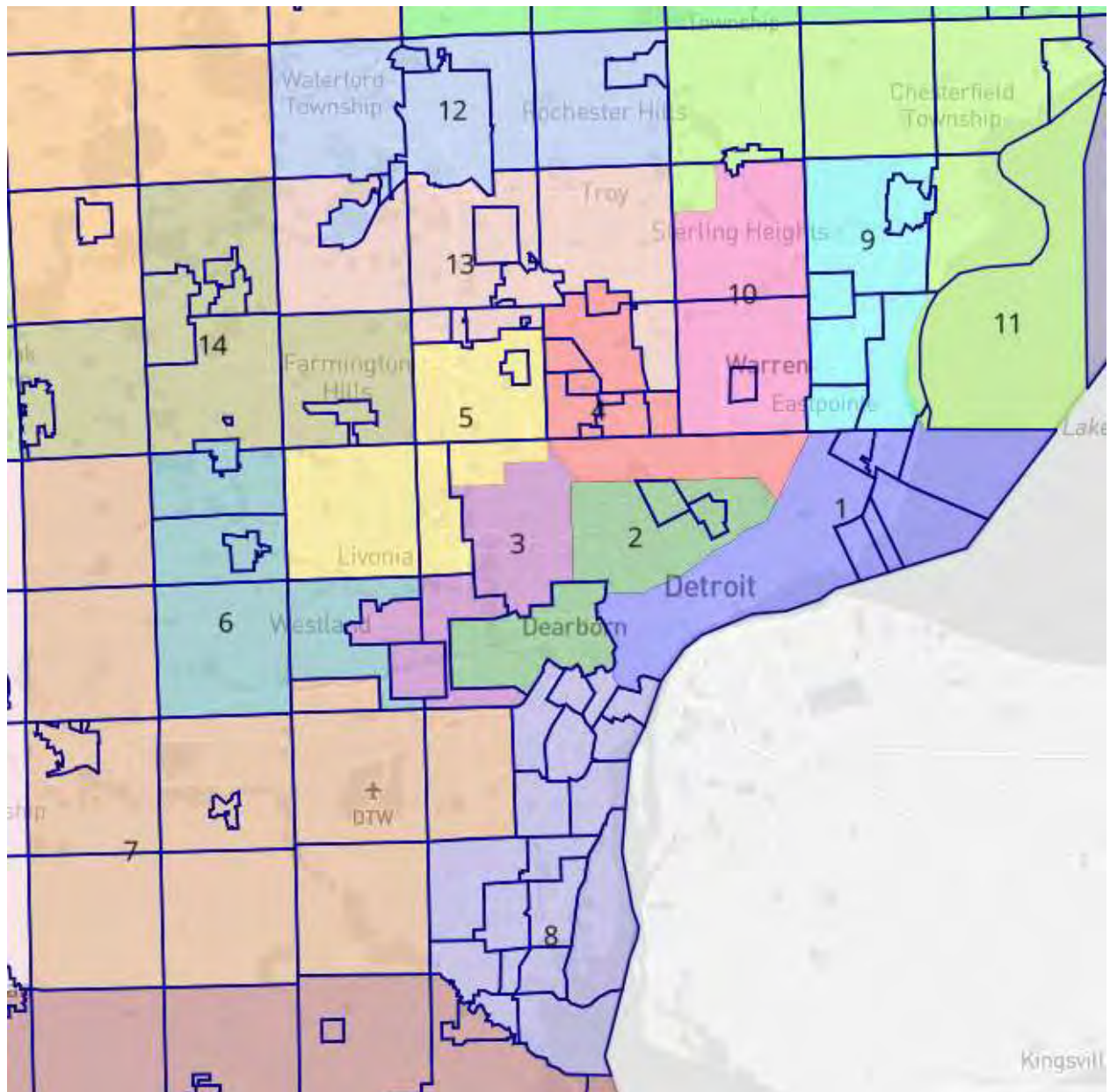


Metro Detroit

Overview map without municipal boundaries



Overview map with municipal boundaries



Districts 1 through 14 are located in the core urban and suburban portions of Metro Detroit: all of Wayne County along with southern Oakland and Macomb. One district extends into eastern Washtenaw.

Detroit-based districts: My first consideration was how to maintain five majority-minority districts that protect African-American voting rights in compliance with the VRA. With Detroit's continued population loss, I found it necessary to extend these districts across 8 Mile into Southfield and Oak Park to find sufficient African-American population.

- District 1 includes Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes along with southern, downtown, and eastern Detroit. This district is connected along major arterials like the Ford Freeway and Jefferson Avenue.
- District 2 is Dearborn, Highland Park, Hamtramck, and central Detroit. This district is two distinct but adjacent communities of interest joined for VRA purposes.
- District 3 joins western Detroit with Dearborn Heights, Garden City, and Inkster. Again, this district is two distinct but adjacent communities of interest joined for VRA purposes.
- District 4 consists of northern Detroit and the many small cities between Southfield and Warren. The heart of this district is the Woodward corridor between Highland Park and Birmingham.
- District 5 is a suburban-focused district connecting Southfield, Livonia, Redford, and a small portion of far northwestern Detroit.

None of these districts split a municipality other than Detroit. Divisions in Detroit are generally along major roads. For example, the major boundaries between District 1 and 2 is Gratiot, between District 2 and 3 is Schaeffer Highway, and between District 2 and 4 is McNichols. Using major roads as boundaries within cities improves the public's capacity to understand the districts' layout.

They are all safe Democratic districts. As majority-minority districts designed to protect African-American voting rights, they are all highly likely to elect African American Democrats.

Wayne-based districts: The remaining Wayne County districts look to protect communities of interest while keeping in mind statewide partisan proportionality.

- District 6 takes in Northville, Plymouth, Canton, and Westland. It is connected along major arterials like Ford Road and I-275.
- District 7 is located in southwestern Wayne County and eastern Washtenaw. It is centered around the I-94 corridor and has a significant African American population.
- District 8 is a Downriver district. Public comment was overwhelmingly in favor of recognizing this community of interest where possible. It is connected along I-75 and Fort St (M-85).

I would particularly like to highlight District 7. Because it straddles the Wayne/Washtenaw border, I think the commission might otherwise miss this potential district. I believe that the I-94 corridor is a very real community of interest in terms of commuter and commercial flows. It brings together an aviation industrial interest by connecting Detroit Metro and Willow Run airports. Further, its population is about one-quarter African American, which makes it likely that African Americans would have a plurality of the Democratic primary vote in this district. This district would create a strong opportunity for African American representation outside of the city of Detroit.

None of these districts split a municipality other than Detroit, which is split along a major geographical feature.

District 6 would be strongly Democratic, District 7 safe Democratic, and District 8 competitive with a Democratic lean.

Macomb-based Districts: I drew three districts in the southern half of Macomb.

- District 9 consists of St. Clair Shores, Eastpointe, Roseville, Fraser, Clinton Twp, and Mount Clemens. This district is built around the Gratiot corridor as a community of interest.
- District 10 consists of Warren, Center Line, and most of Sterling Heights. This district is built around Mound and Van Dyke as arterial connectors.
- District 11 pulls together the outer band of rapidly growing suburbs: Harrison, Chesterfield Twp, New Baltimore, Macomb Twp, Shelby Twp, Utica, and a part of Sterling Heights for population equality.

These districts contain no county splits and one municipal split in Sterling Heights. The choice of which portion of Sterling Heights is attached to District 11 could easily be changed if the commission's community of interest testimony persuades it otherwise. My selected portion is north of 18 Mile and west of Mound Rd. I selected it to improve statewide proportionality.

I made the decision to run Districts 9 and 10 vertically instead of horizontally to 1) better follow the transportation arterials running north out of Detroit and 2) improve statewide proportionality.

District 9 is competitive with a Democratic lean, District 10 highly competitive, and District 11 strongly Republican.

Oakland-based Districts: I drew an additional three districts in southern and eastern Oakland.

- District 12 runs along M-59 in central Oakland, connecting Rochester/Rochester Hills, Auburn Hills, Pontiac, and Waterford Twp (along with some smaller adjacent communities.)
- District 13 combines the next line of cities to the south: Madison Heights, Troy, Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham and West Bloomfield (along with the smaller communities just north of Southfield.) On its east side, it connected along the Chrysler Freeway. In the center, it includes a stretch of the Woodward corridor. I would guess that this district would have the highest average household income in the state.
- District 14 pulls together the southwestern portion of the county - Farmington/Farmington Hills, Novi, South Lyon/Lyon Twp, and Wixom/Walled Lake/Commerce Twp. This district is built around I-96/696 and the Grand River corridor.

These districts contain no county or municipal splits.

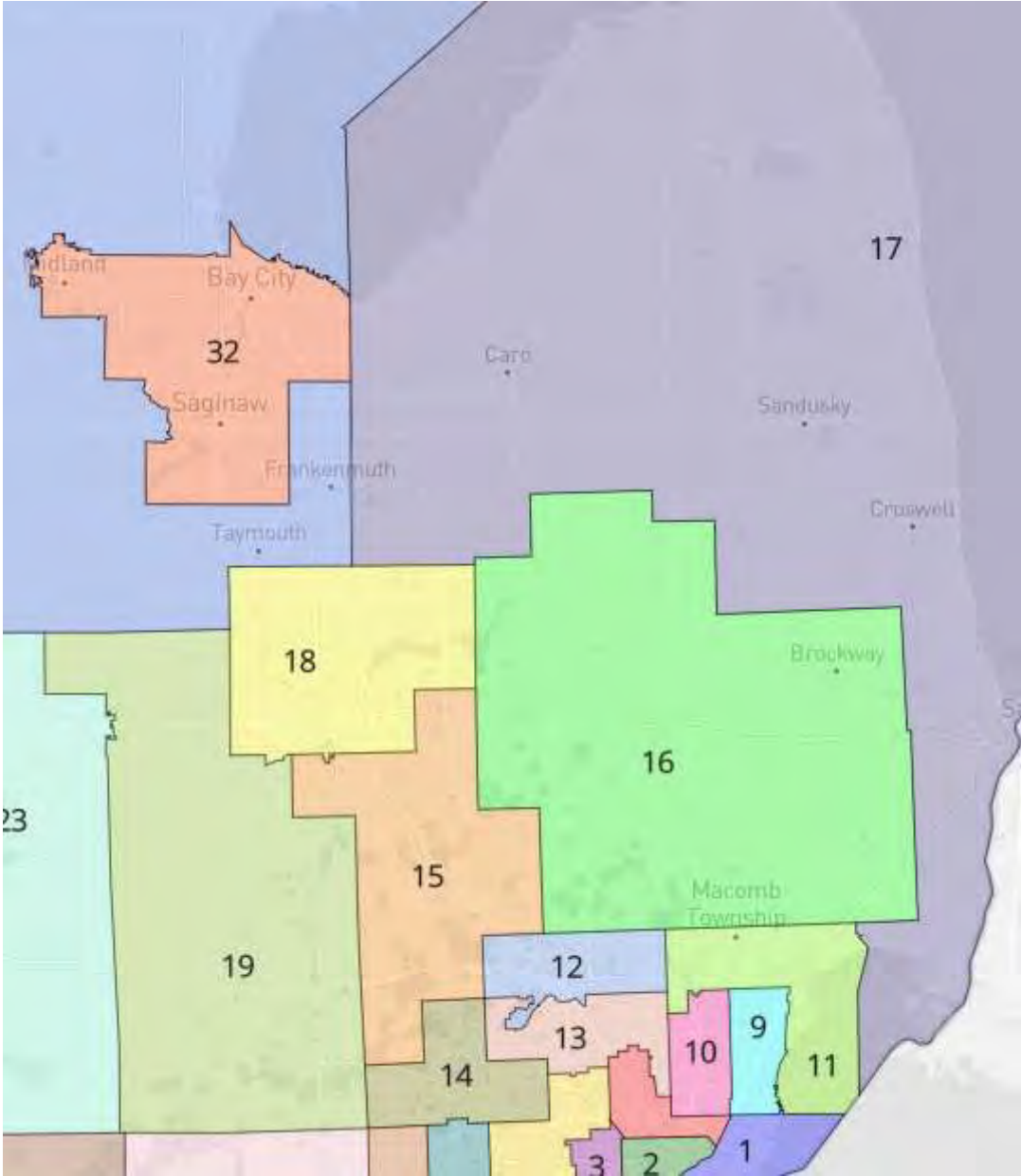
All three districts would be competitive with a Democratic lean.

Some additional notes on county and/or municipal splits in the Detroit region before moving on:

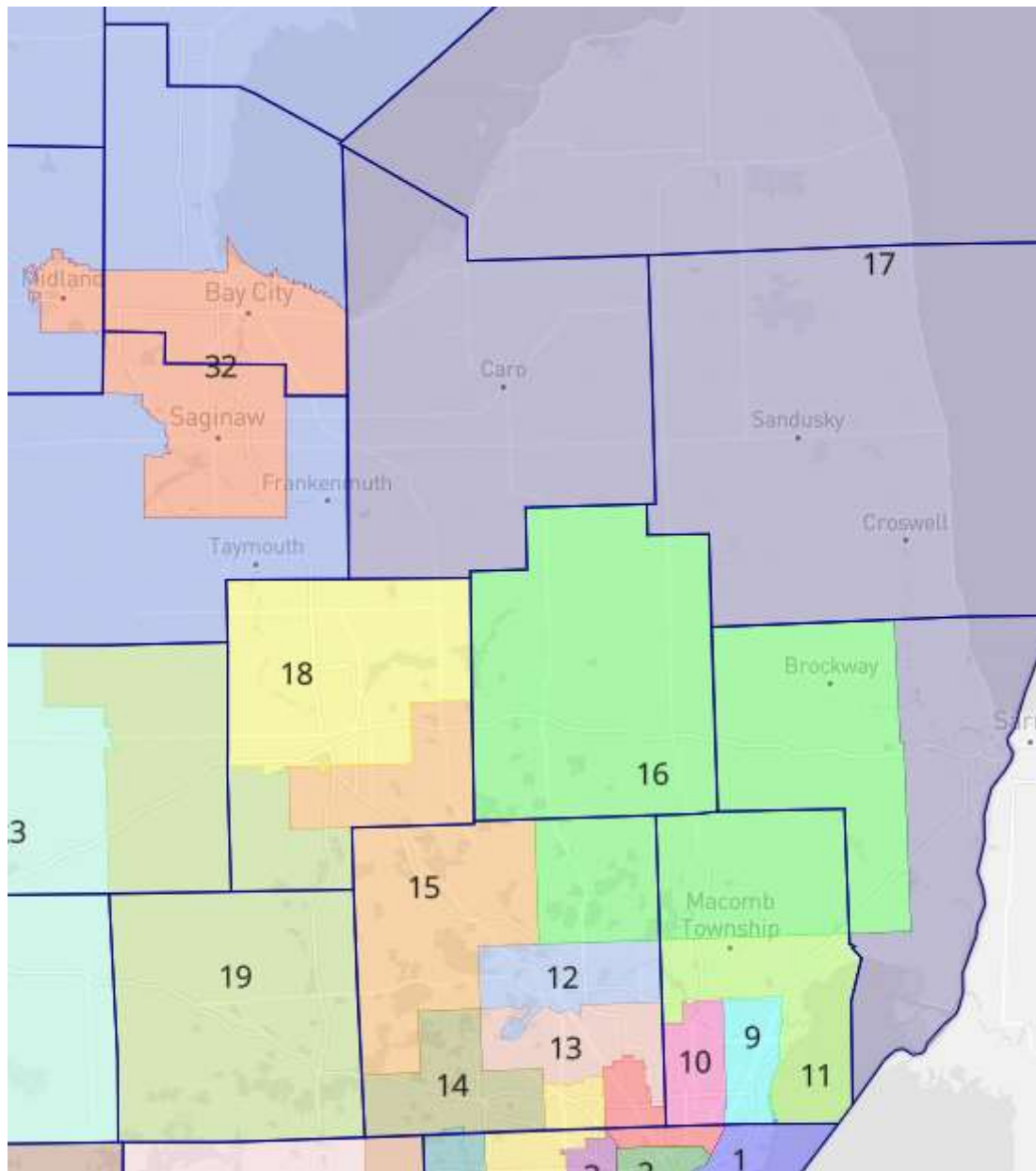
- District 1 includes all of Grosse Pointe Shores, including the Oakland County portion. That portion has a tiny population and could easily be moved to District 9 to split the municipality instead of the county, if desired.
- District 6 includes all of Northville, including the Oakland County portion. Although that portion contains several thousand people, it could be moved to District 14 to split the municipality instead of the county while both districts stay within legal population equality limits, if desired.
- District 8 includes a small portion of southern Detroit, specifically the areas south of the Rouge River. That portion is home to about 6,500 people. District 8 would still be within legal population equality limits without it, but boundaries inside Detroit would need to change as District 1 would go over population limits if it absorbed the area. Keeping it in District 8 preserves a small community of interest between African American residents of Ecorse, River Rouge, and that small slice of southern Detroit.

East Michigan

Overview map without county boundaries



Overview map with county boundaries



District 15 through District 18 are located in East Michigan - Genesee, northern and western Oakland, northern Macomb, and the Thumb.

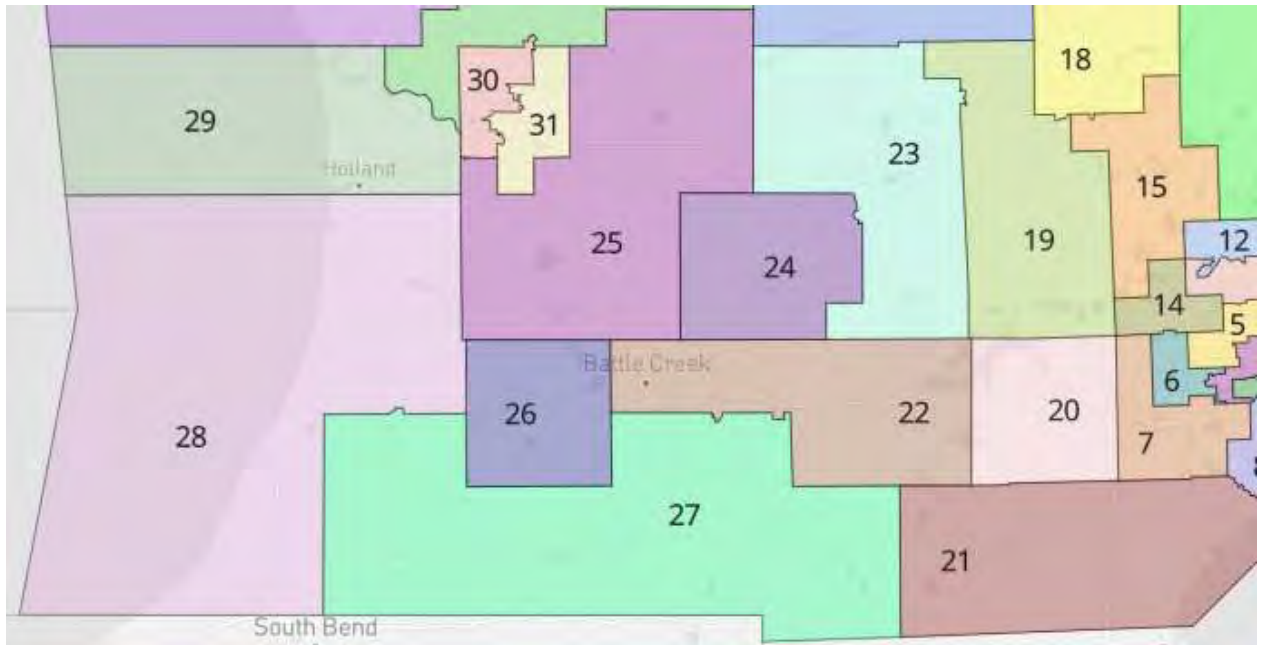
- District 15 is built around the I-75 corridor between Pontiac and Flint.
- District 16 pulls together exurban and rural areas anchored by Lapeer, combined with northeastern Oakland, northern Macomb, and western St. Clair
- District 17 is a Thumb district with Tuscola, Huron, and Sanilac along with the eastern, coastal portions of St. Clair.
- District 18 is a compact northern Genesee district anchored in Flint.

There are no municipal splits among these districts.

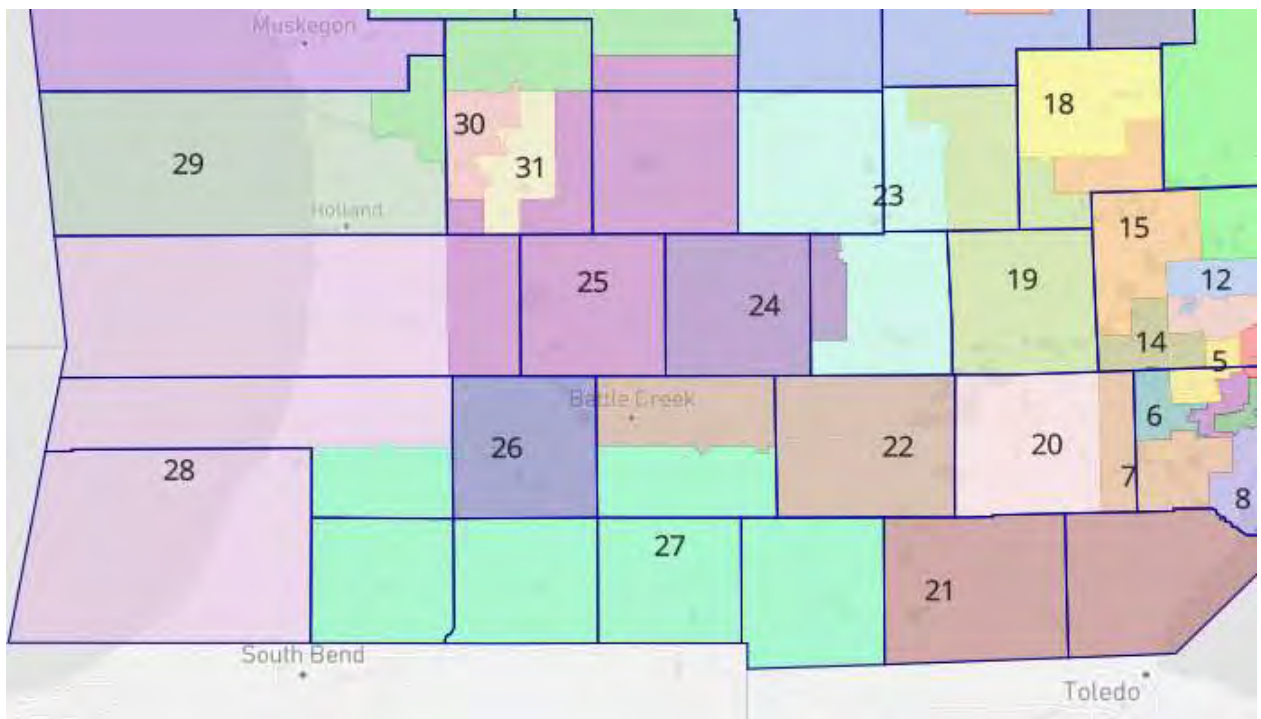
This is a heavily Republican section of the state. District 18 would be safe Democratic, and at about 30% African American, likely to elect an African American Democrat. District 15 which is strongly Republican and the other two safe Republican.

Southern, Central and Western Michigan

Overview map without county boundaries



Overview map with county boundaries



Central/South Michigan - Districts 19 through 24 are located in the greater Lansing and Ann Arbor areas. They cover all of Monroe, Lenawee, Livingston, Shiawassee, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, and Jackson Counties; most of Washtenaw and Calhoun Counties; and part of Genesee County.

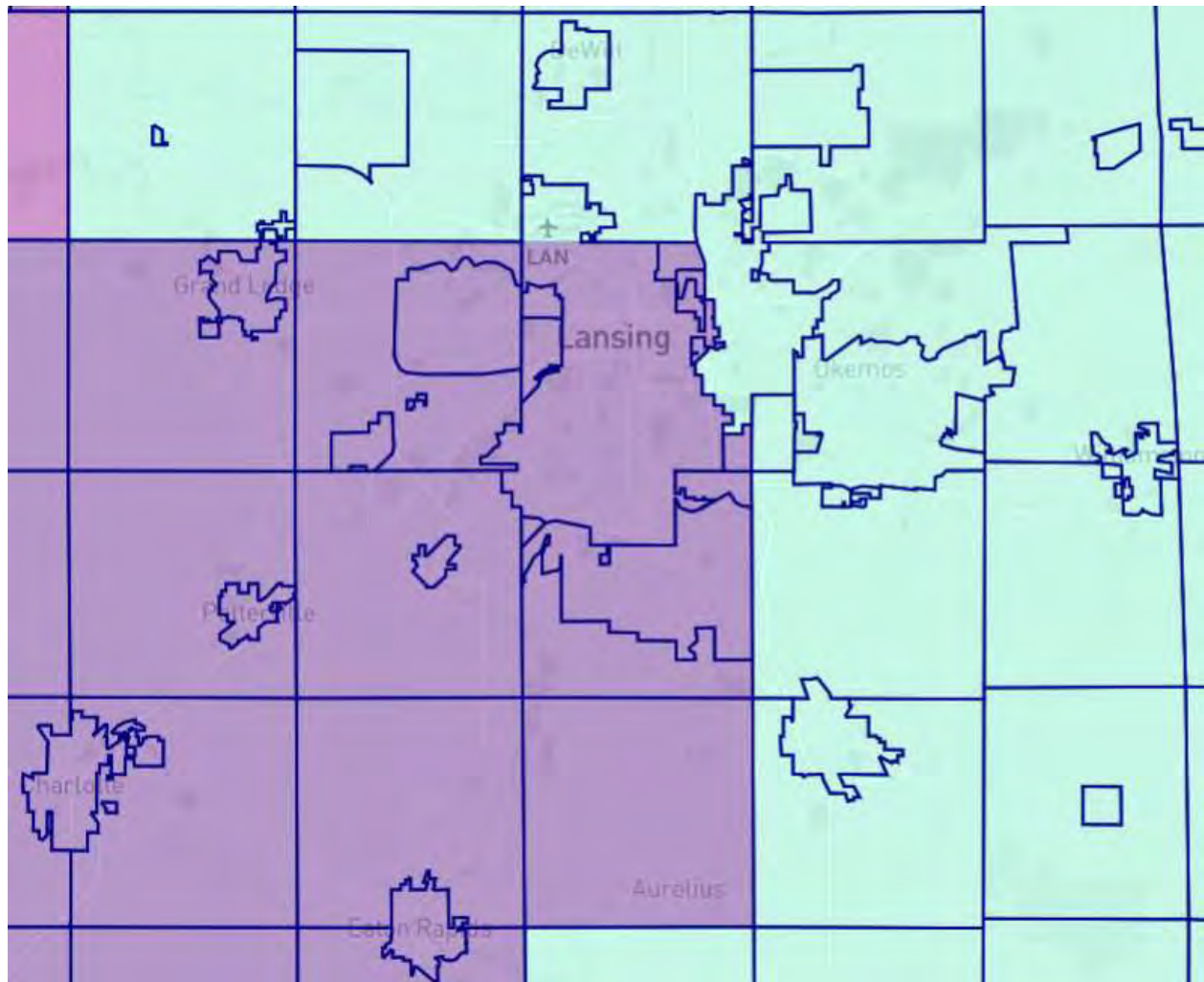
- District 19 is a suburban/exurban seat in the middle of Detroit, Flint, and Lansing. It combines all of Livingston County with southern Genesee and eastern Shiawassee.
- District 20 is a compact Washtenaw seat, anchored by Ann Arbor and containing its western bedroom communities.
- District 21 links Lenawee and Monroe, the two southeasternmost counties of the state.
- District 22 combines Jackson with northern Calhoun as a I-94/Michigan Ave corridor community of interest.
- District 23 is one of two Lansing area districts. This one combines Clinton, western Shiawassee, and most of Ingham.
- District 24 is the other Lansing seat. It combines Lansing proper with Eaton.

These six districts contain four county splits in Ingham, Shiawassee, Genesee, and Calhoun. These splits are due to population equalization -- these are all relatively large counties that would be difficult to recombine into fewer splits, especially while keeping the commission's other priorities in mind. They contain no municipal splits that aren't explained by enclaves or county boundaries.

Districts 20 and 21 are fairly self-explanatory, I think. District 22 pulls together the small industrial cities and towns along I-94/Michigan Ave and separates those small urban areas from the rural areas to their south. The Lansing area is roughly large enough for two districts. Splitting it into two districts that both contain urban cores is necessary for statewide proportionality to avoid advantaging the Republican party. Livingston is large enough to anchor its own district in District 19, and taking in southern Genesee follows a community of interest along US-23. Shiawassee County is split between Districts 19 and 23 largely for population equality as opposed to any other interest.

These six districts are split in party preference. Districts 19 and 21 are strongly Republican, while District 22 is competitive with a Republican lean. District 20 is safe Democratic, District 24 strongly Democratic, and District 23 competitive with a Democratic lean.

Close-up of the Lansing area with municipal boundaries



West/South Michigan - Districts 25 through 31 are located in the greater Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo areas. They cover all of Hillsdale, Branch, St. Joseph, Cass, Berrien, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Allegan, Barry, and Ionia Counties; most of Ottawa and Kent Counties; and part of Calhoun and Montcalm Counties.

- District 25 is a district for Grand Rapids' eastern and southern suburbs and exurbs. It contains all of Barry and Ionia and parts of Kent, Allegan, and Montcalm.
- District 26 is a compact Kalamazoo seat, containing all of Kalamazoo County.
- District 27 pulls together the southern rural counties of Hillsdale, Cass, St. Joseph, and Branch with the southern halves of Calhoun and Van Buren. US-12 is a major arterial for this district.
- District 28 lies along the Lake Michigan coast south of Holland, containing Berrien, northern Van Buren, and most of Allegan.

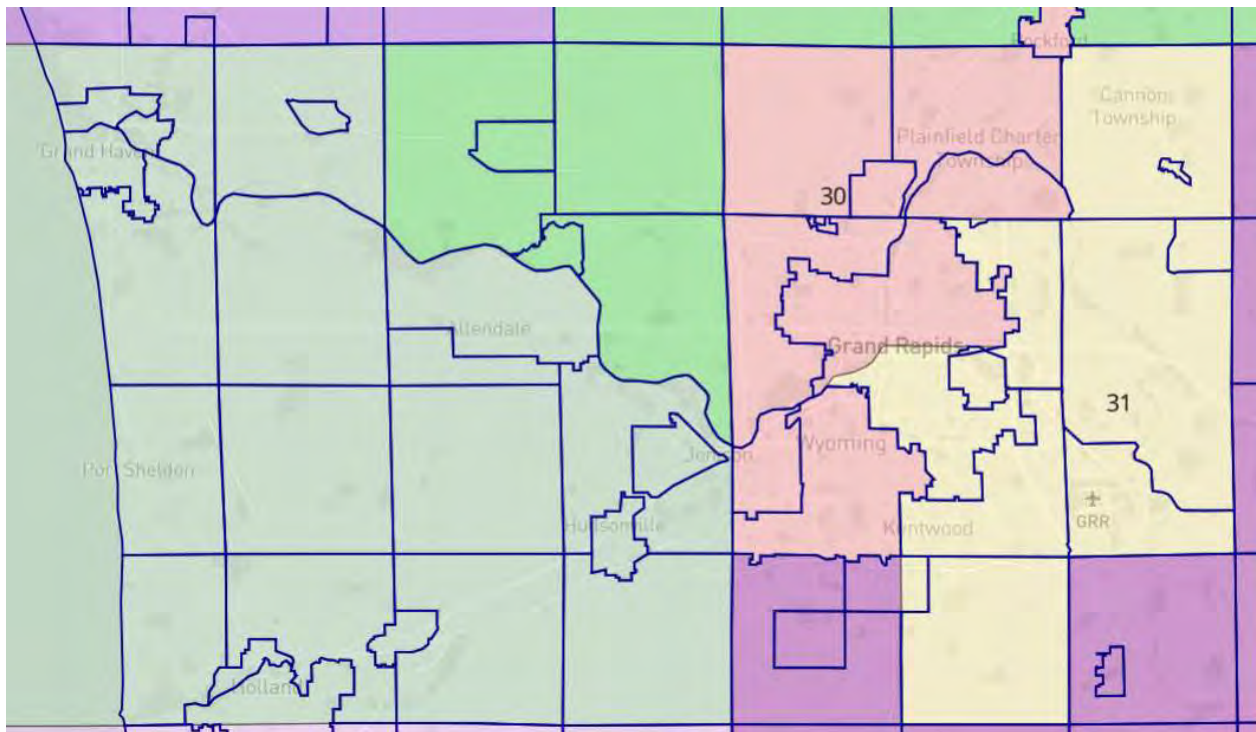
- District 29 is a compact Ottawa seat. Ottawa is too large for a single district, so far northeastern Ottawa is placed in District 34
- District 30 is one of two Grand Rapids-based seats, containing the western and northern portions of the “Six Cities” and extending into surrounding townships.
- District 31 is the other Grand Rapids-based seat, containing the eastern and southern portions of the “Six Cities” and extending into surrounding townships.

These seven districts contain six counties that are split between them, which are required for population equality. The city of Grand Rapids is the only municipality split, which is necessary for statewide proportionality. The split follows Fulton St and the Grand River. Splitting Grand Rapids itself allows it to anchor two districts with its suburban neighbors. Failure to split Grand Rapids packs urban voters and unfairly advantages the Republican party.

District 26 pretty much draws itself as a compact Kalamazoo seat. District 27 takes in the four rural counties to the south, along with the southern half of Calhoun that didn't fit into District 22 and enough of Van Buren for population equality. The shoreline District 28 takes in Berrien, the remainder of Van Buren, and most of Allegan for population equality. District 29 is most of Ottawa County - portions north and east of the Grand are excluded for population equality. Districts 30 and 31 take in the core portions of metro Grand Rapids in Kent County. District 25 is then Barry and Ionia combined with the remainder of Allegan, the remainder of southern and eastern Kent, and the southern tier of townships from Montcalm for population equality.

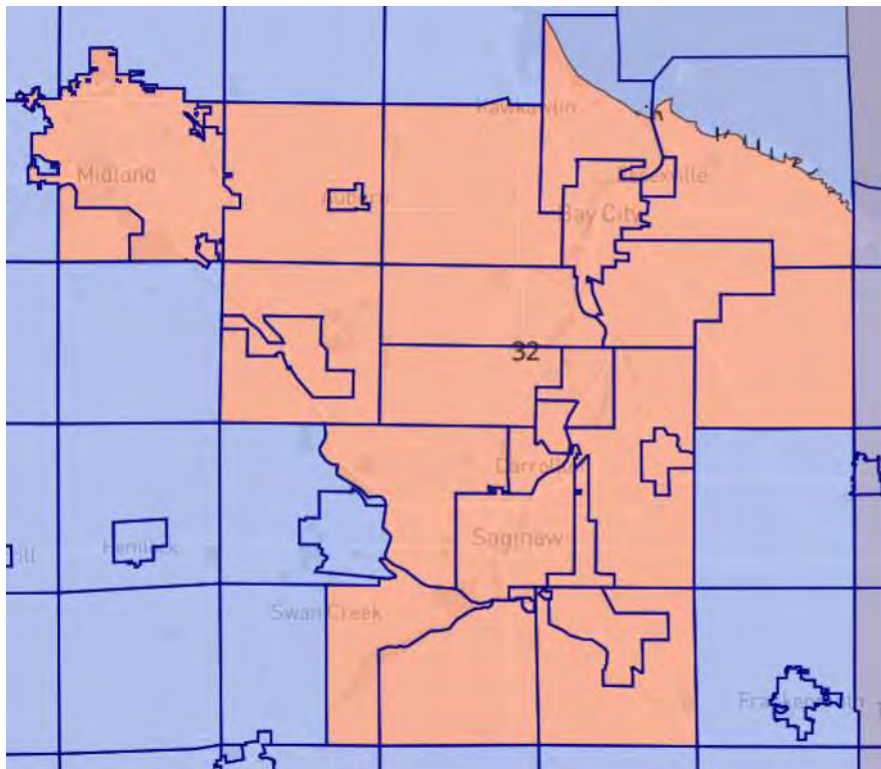
This region of the state favors Republicans, which is shown in the districts' partisan preferences. Districts 25, 27 and 29 are safe Republican; while District 28 is strongly Republican. Districts 26 and 31 are strongly Democratic. District 30 would be highly competitive.

Close-up of Kent and Ottawa with municipal boundaries



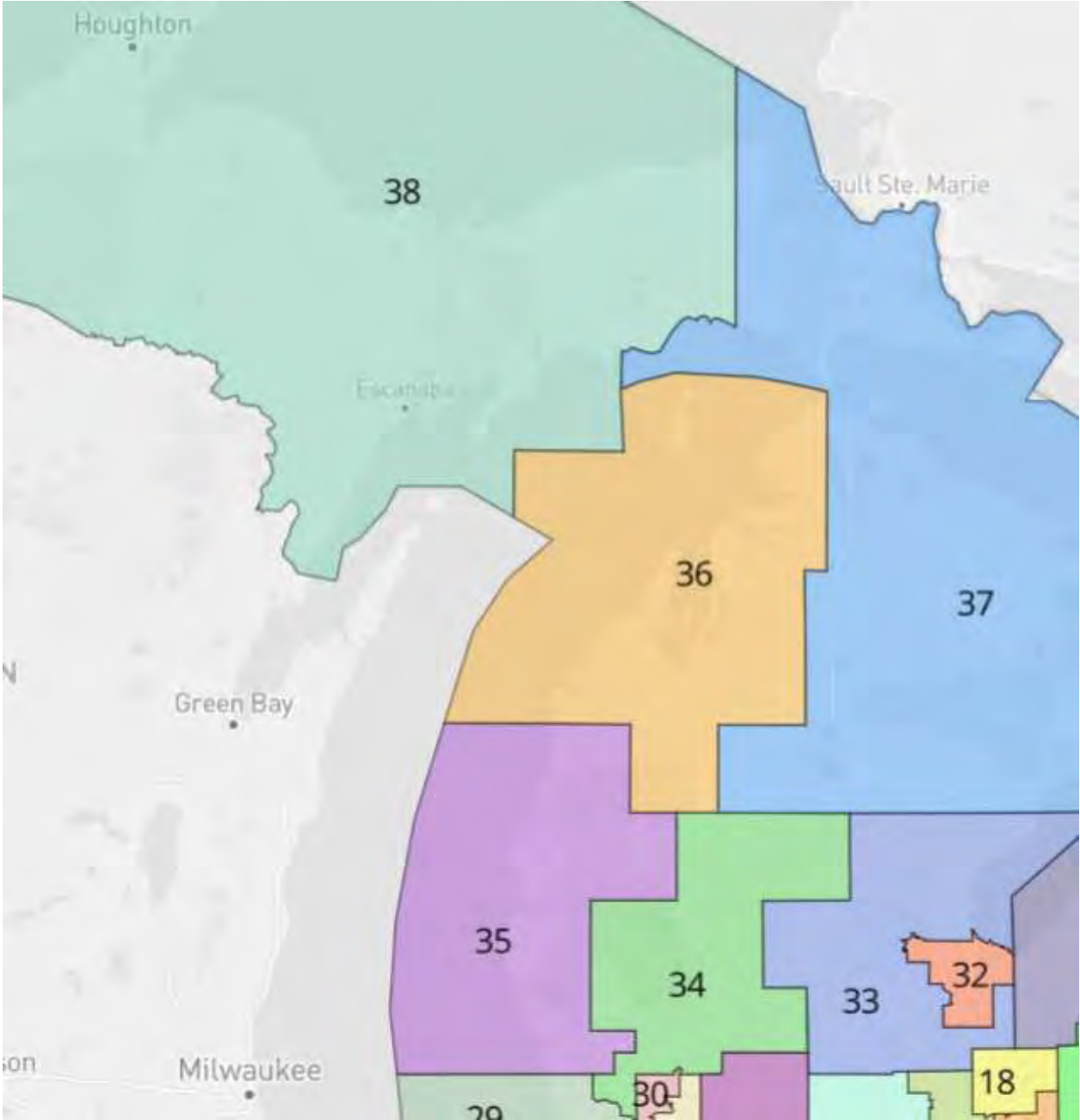
Note that the Cutlerville area south of Wyoming/Kentwood that appears to be split is a Census-designated place, not a true municipality

Close-up of the Tri-Cities Area with municipal boundaries

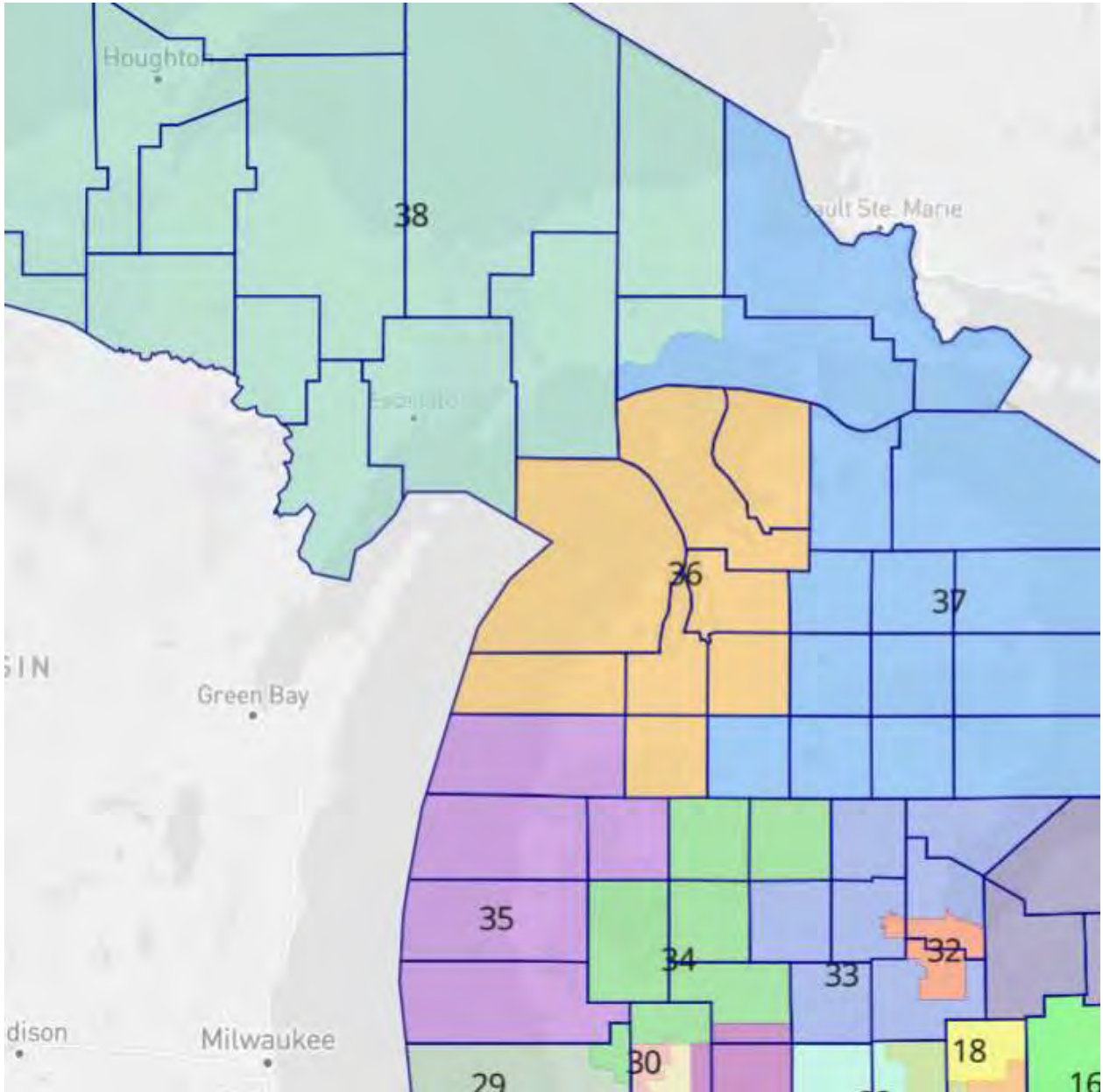


Northern Michigan

Overview map without county boundaries



Overview map with county boundaries



The remaining districts (32 through 38) are in northern Michigan - defined roughly as Muskegon, Newaygo, Montcalm, Gratiot, and Saginaw Counties; along with all counties north of them.

- District 32 is a compact Tri-Cities district, both in response to public comment to protect that community of interest and for statewide partisan proportionality.
- District 33 takes in the remainder of Saginaw, Bay, and Midland Counties, along with Arenac, Gladwin, Isabella, and Gratiot Counties. This creates a rural and small town community of interest district in east central Michigan to complement District 32's urban and suburban district.
- District 34 takes in the remainder of Kent, Ottawa, and Montcalm Counties and combines them with the interior counties to their north: Newaygo, Mecosta, Oceola, and Clare. This follows the M37 and US131 arterials going north from Grand Rapids.
- District 35 is a shoreline community of interest district with Muskegon, Oceana, Mason, and Manistee Counties. It also includes Lake County for population equality.
- District 36 is a community of interest district for Greater Traverse City. It includes Emmet, Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, Wexford, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, and Benzie.
- District 37 is 37's counterpart on the Lake Huron side, containing Missaukee, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco, Alcona, Oscoda, Crawford, Otsego, Montmorency, Alpena, Presque Isle and Cheboygan Counties. For population equality, it crosses the Straights to take most of Mackinac and all of Chippewa.
- District 38 is the remainder of Mackinac and the remaining Upper Peninsula counties: Luce, Schoolcraft, Alger, Delta, Menominee, Dickinson, Marquette, Iron, Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw, Ontonagon, and Gogebic.

These seven districts contain seven counties that are split, mostly in Districts 32 through 34. Districts 35 and 36 require no county splits, while District 38 requires a split of Mackinac or Chippewa for population equality.

District 34 splits come from taking in the portion of counties leftover in districts to its south and won't be rehashed.

Districts 32 and 33 split Saginaw, Bay, and Midland Counties between them. This is necessary both to protect the Tri-Cities community of interest and for statewide proportionality. District 32, as a compact urban seat across three counties, is specifically the kind of district that the Fair Districts amendment supports by deprioritizing boundary splits in favor of communities of interest and proportionality.

This area is mostly split between competitive districts and those that favor Republicans. Districts 32 and 35 are highly competitive, while District 38 is competitive with a Republican lean. Districts 33 and 36 are strongly Republican, while the remaining two are safe Republican.

Conclusion

The presented plan demonstrates that it is possible to adhere to the Constitutional priorities of equality of population and fidelity to federal law, contiguity, and preserving communities of interest, while also maximizing partisan proportionality. I hope that it will serve as a useful model for the commissioners as they seek to implement their Constitutional mandate. I thank the commissioners for their consideration.

I am writing to express my disappointment in the process the Commission used on August 31st in drawing both the State House and State Senate seats for West Michigan. *The Washington Free Beacon* reported earlier this year that Commissioner Eid is actually a supporter of candidates who hold values associated with the Democratic Party's progressive left wing, yet he, listed as a "nonpartisan" commissioner on this Commission was allowed to dictate the map drawings of most of the districts.

I ask the Commission to respect their own rules and rotate through all Commissioners when drawing maps and not allow one Commissioner to dictate the process. This will require the Commission to reconsider the drawing of the maps for Kent County.

Rather than the current map, a more accurate outline would be for the cities of Grand Rapids, East Grand Rapids and Kentwood to be drawn within one community of interest and should be drawn together for their State Senate seat. This makes sense based upon the area's populations. The cities of Wyoming and Grandville are closely associated with Georgetown Township in Ottawa County and therefore should be drawn together.

The Commission should also reconsider the State House maps that were drawn for Kent County.

- The Urban City of Kentwood has little association with the more rural townships of Ada and Cascade
- The City of Kentwood should be included within the southeast Grand Rapids and City of East Grand Rapids, for its own seat. The Commission should also make the rest of the City of Grand Rapids its own respective house seat.
- Plainfield Township and the City of Rockford are both communities of interest and share the same school district (Rockford). Therefore, they should be drawn together.
- Grand Rapids Township and Ada Township are communities of interest and they share the same school district (Forest Hills) so they should be drawn together.

Thank you for your consideration of these changes.

Laurel Abraham

#GrandRapids #KentCounty

Battle Creek Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Virtual Testimony to the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
Thursday, May 13, 2021 ~ Kalamazoo, Michigan ~ 6:00 p.m.

**To madam chair, commissioners and all those gathered in person in
Kalamazoo or virtually ... Good Evening!**

**My name is Lynn Ward Gray, I testify today as the chapter president for
the Battle Creek Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a public
service organization. Members provide public service in local communities
under our 5-Point programmatic thrust: Economic Development, Educational
Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental
Health, and Political Awareness and Involvement.**

**I rise, virtually, today to support the Battle Creek Area I-94 Economic
Corridor Project proposal of a shared community of interest with Kalamazoo.
We believe we should not, and never should have been aligned with Grand
Rapids as it currently stands as we have little shared economic or other
community interests. Our economic, and other community interests, recreation
& leisure, shopping, dining, infrastructures, etc. are shared with Kalamazoo.
Our health equity work to get our communities tested and vaccinated worked
with our shared healthcare systems, Bronson Healthcare and Borgess and other
partners. Our work in criminal justice reform, offering an expungement**

informational forum with shared organization Legal Services of South Central Michigan. And social services work is supported by the United Way of the Battle Creek & Kalamazoo Region. To further illustrate:

- I am a legacy, because my mother was a member. She co-chartered the chapter in Battle Creek in 1980 but not before she co-chartered the chapter in Kalamazoo in 1973, forever connecting the two chapters and communities.**
- Our members in both the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek Alumnae chapters work, live and worship between both communities. Boosting the economy of both of these closely tied areas.**
- Over the years, we share ideas and collaborate where it makes sense on programming ranging from our youth to our more seasoned citizens and everyone in-between.**

In conclusion, we ask that you return our voice and representation by aligning Battle Creek with Kalamazoo, congressionally.

Thank you for the opportunity to give remarks as the representative of the Battle Creek Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., thank you for your time and thank you commissioners for your service to our great state, have a blessed evening.

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