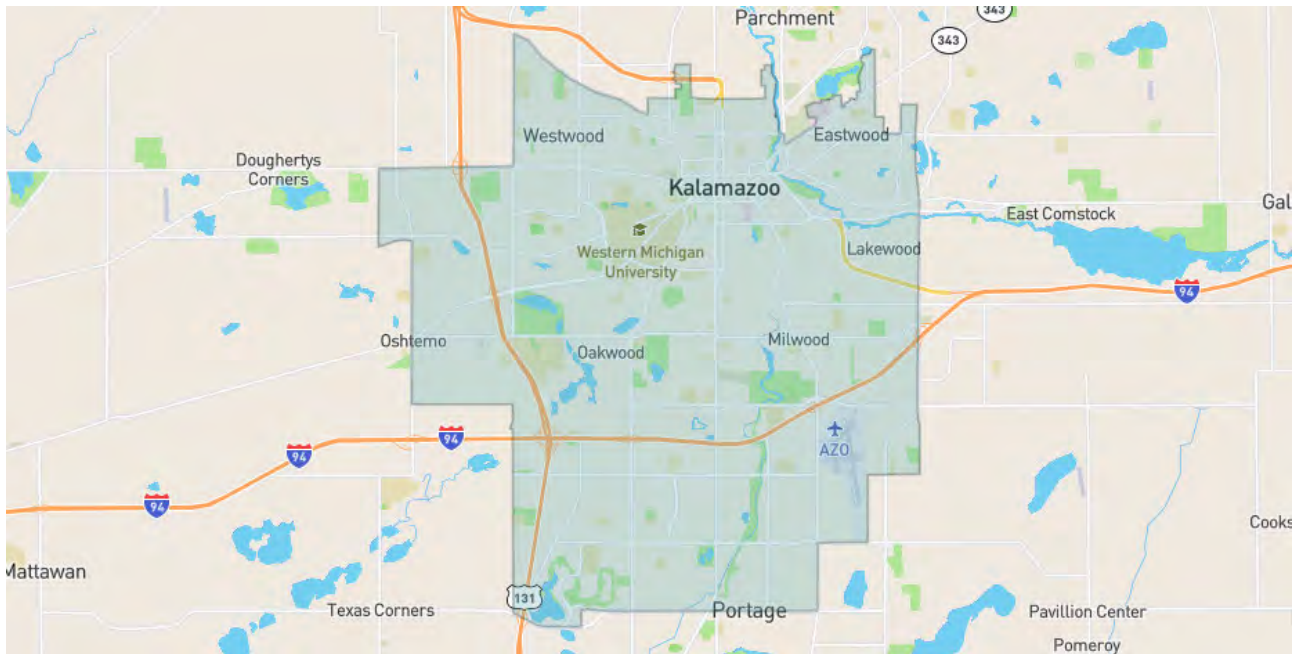


Kalamazoo City

This map was created at [Representable.org](https://www.representable.org)

View this community at:

<https://www.representable.org/submission/6ee81d0a-3924-472f-ba04-86b667380b9c?pdf=true>



Community Information

Economic or Environmental Interests

My community is very economically diverse. We have people from all tax brackets. But we share the values of being highly invested in education and social programs.

Community Activities and Services

My community is made of people who are highly educated and very public-interest minded. We like outdoor areas, libraries, cafes, and diners. There are a lot of kids, so we like to have kid-friendly areas to go.

Cultural or Historical Interests

We are in, around, and deeply involved with Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College.

Community Needs and Concerns

My community is a small urban community and should be kept together with other urban communities. We do not have interests aligned with the surrounding farming community.

Keep Troy Together

This Asian American Pacific Islander community of interest submission argues for keeping the City of Troy together.

Troy is a vital community of interest for its Asian American Pacific Islander population. Of its 2020 population of 87,294, 25.6% are Asian. About 28% of the Troy School District student population in Troy Schools is Asian. (source: Propublica) There is a significant presence of Chinese, Korean, and South Asian Americans within Troy. It is reflected in the churches, temples, businesses, and community centers in and near Troy. Those figures and the physical presence of Asian American institutions make Troy and its Asian American population a standout among communities in Oakland County.

Most of Troy's population would fit well into its own State House district with the addition of Clawson to the south.

Keeping Troy intact as a community of interest and as an Asian American community of interest would fit into a larger State Senate district and Congressional district.

Keep Troy Together!

Submitted by

Roland Hwang

President, American Citizens for Justice, an Asian American civil rights organization



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.

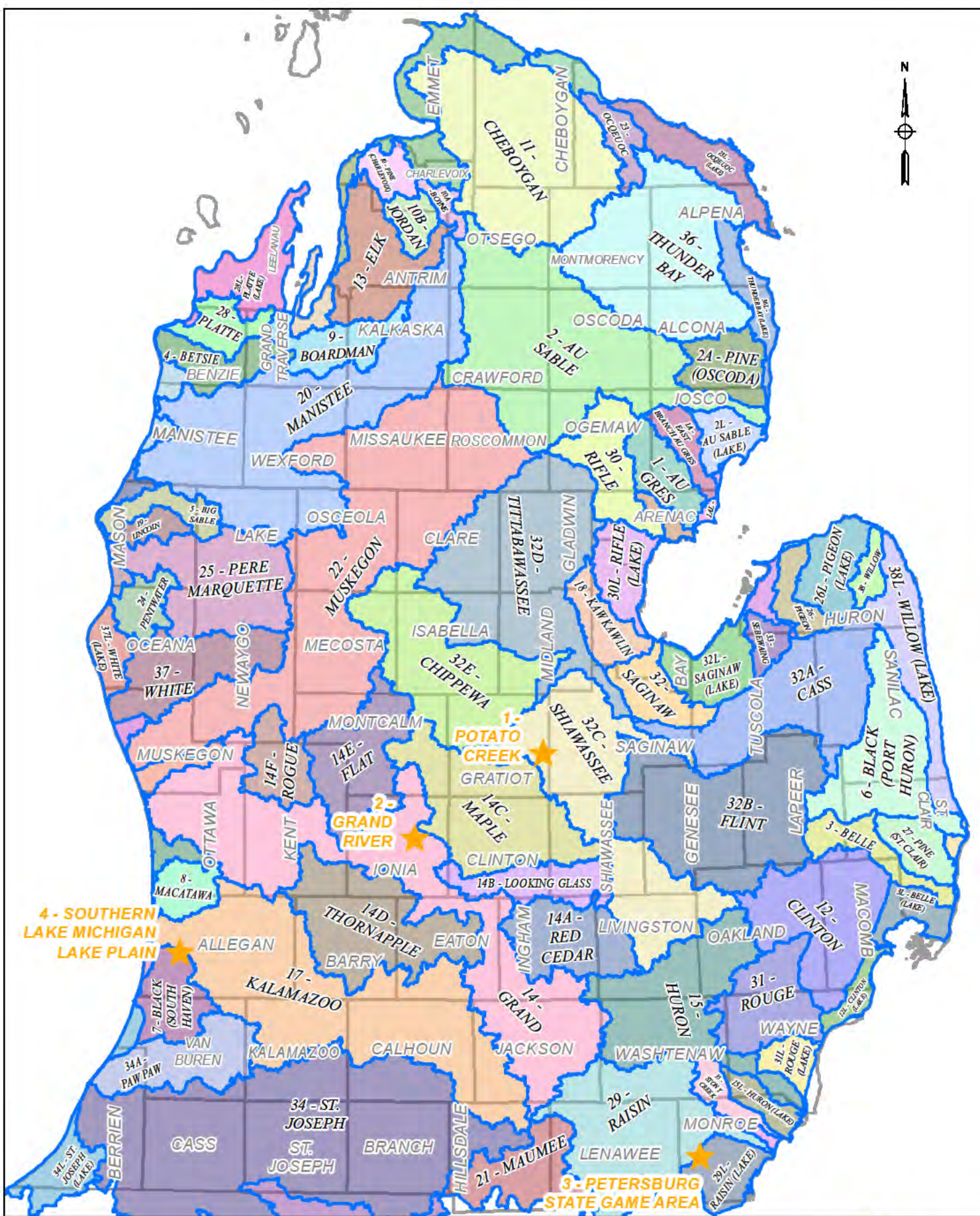
The Muskegon State Game Area is an 8,411-acre section of land which overlays the Muskegon River, and spans both Muskegon and Newaygo counties. There is an abundance of wildlife in the area, including otters, waterfowl, and white-tailed deer. Hunting is popular in the forested areas of the state game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

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



- ★ PROJECT SITE
 - ▭ WMBF WATERSHEDS
 - ▭ MICHIGAN COUNTIES
- 1" = 30 MILES DATE: JANUARY 2017

MITIGATION PROJECT SITES WITH WATERSHEDS



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:

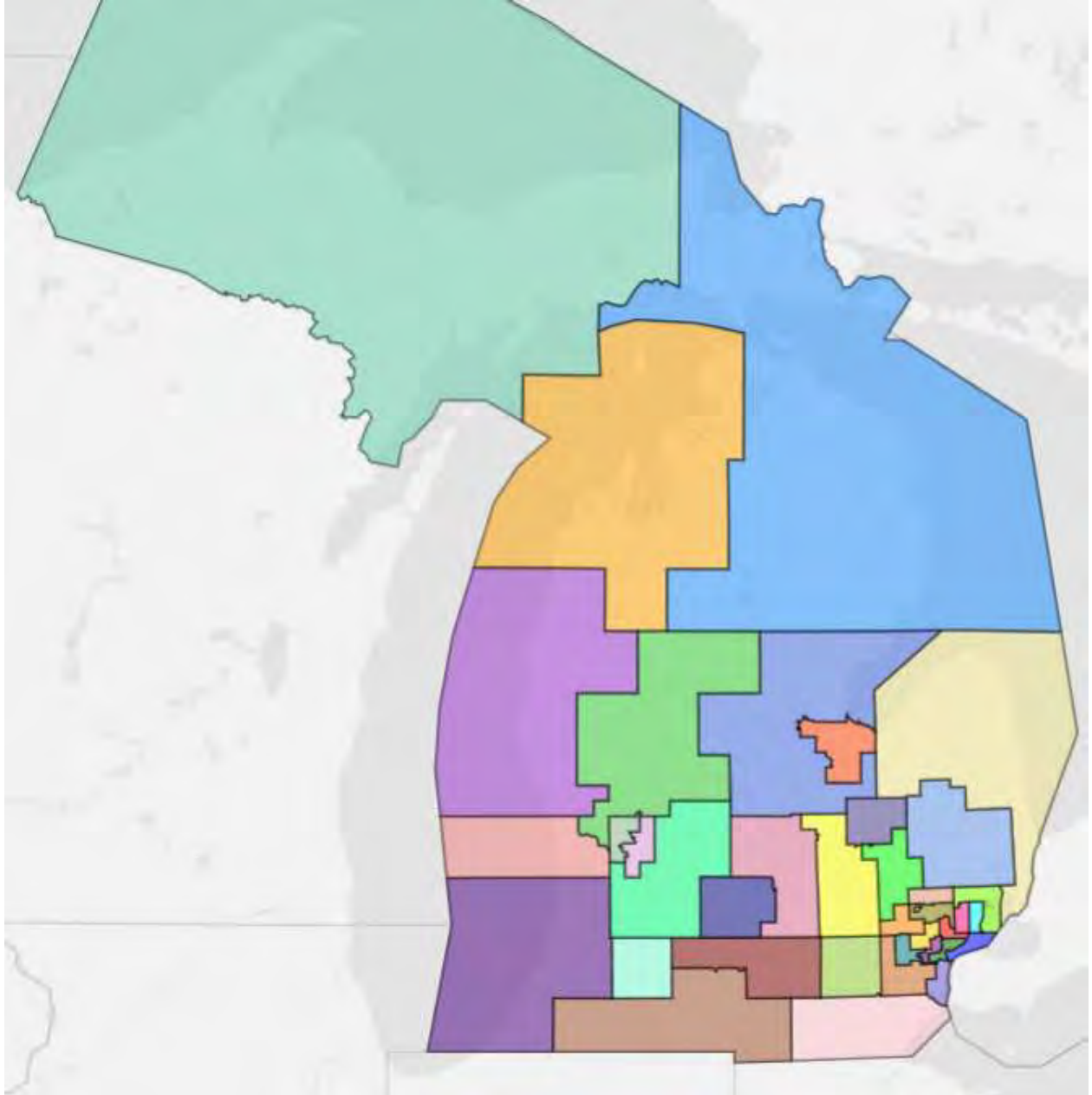
<https://planscore.campaignlegal.org/plan.html?20210908T163922.934916241Z>

Plan Overview

The full map is available at

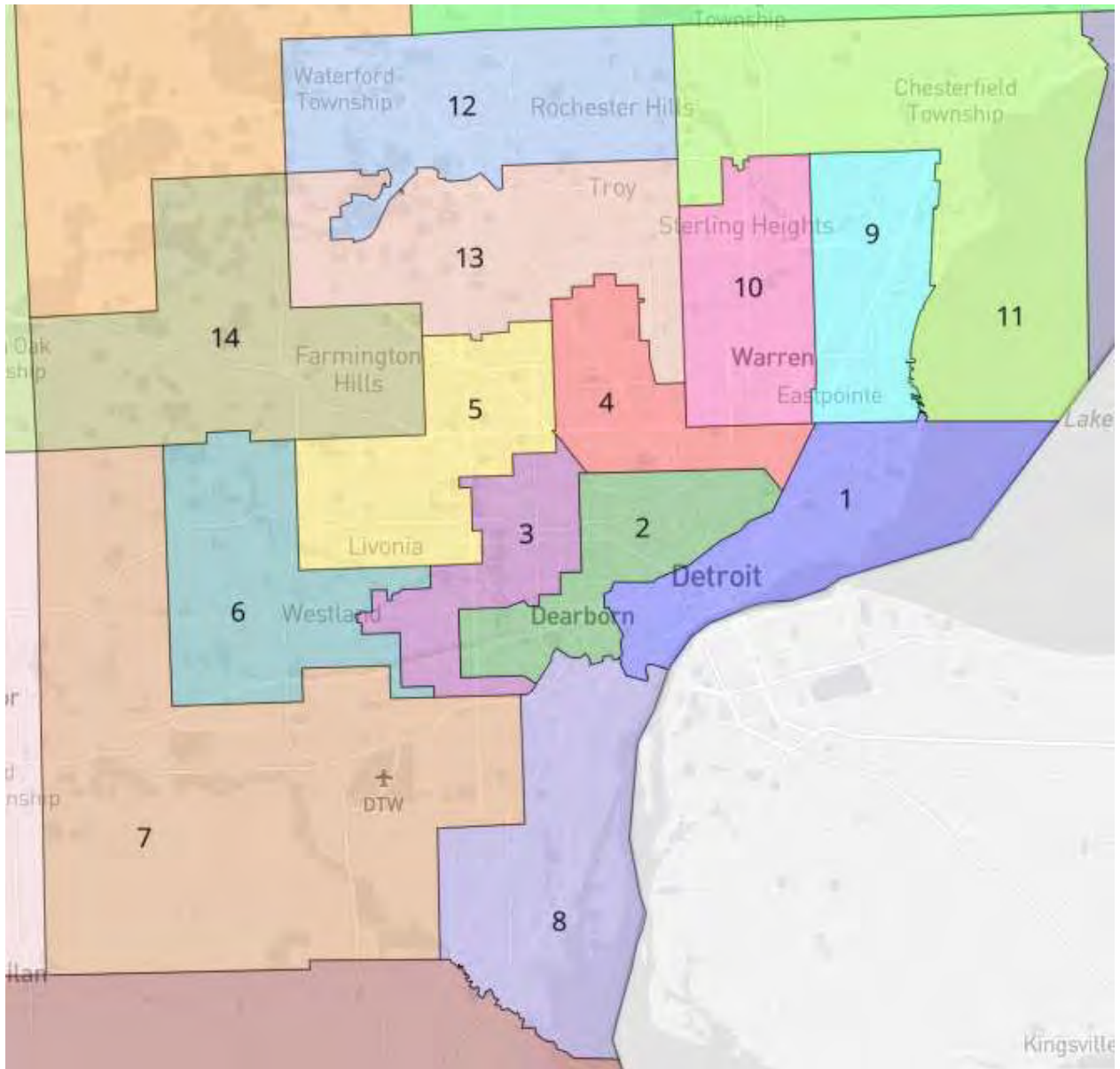
<https://davesredistricting.org/join/c7c24994-fc64-4d9b-be60-5ba8bca918b0>.

Overview map without county boundaries

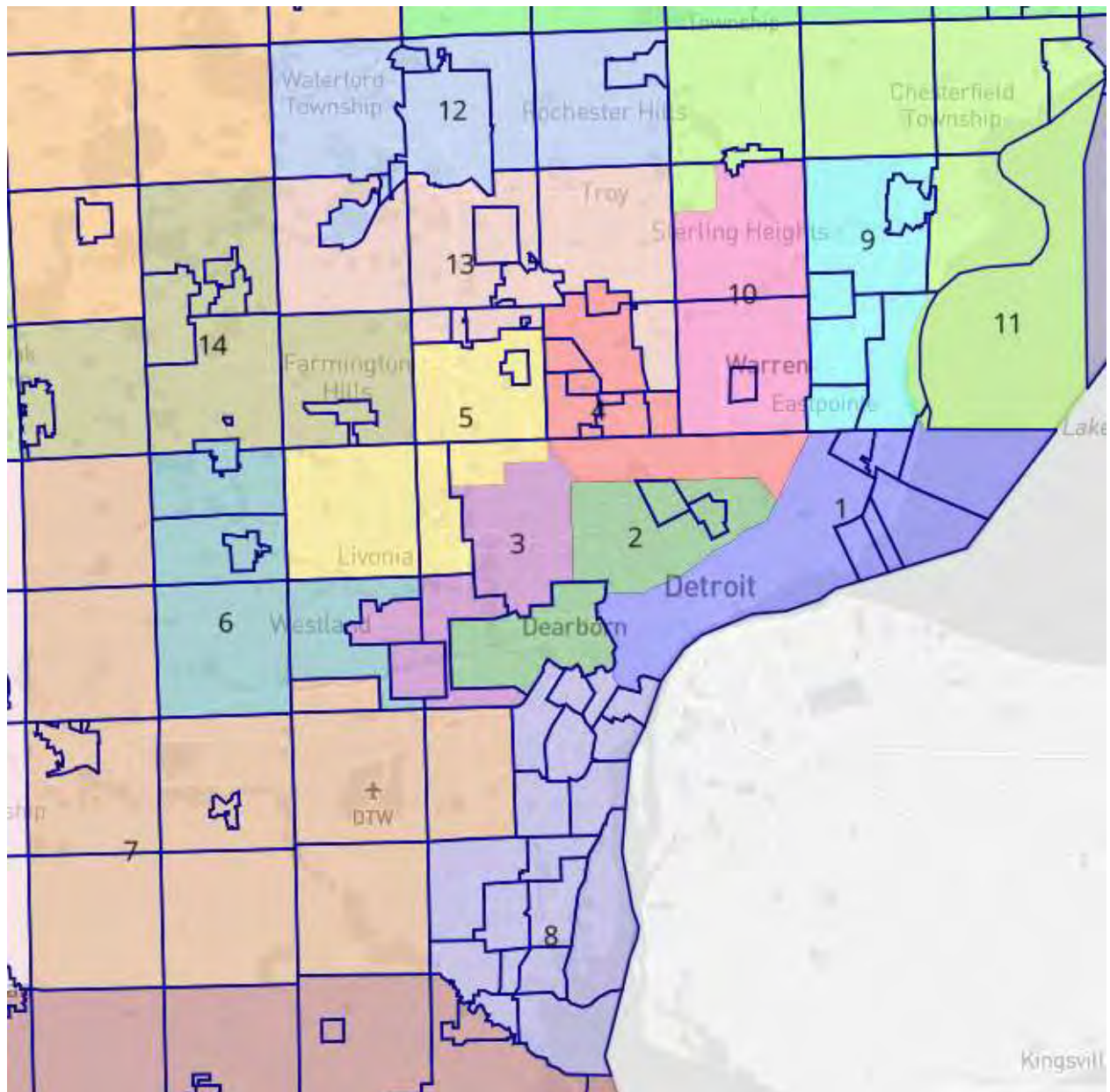


Metro Detroit

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.

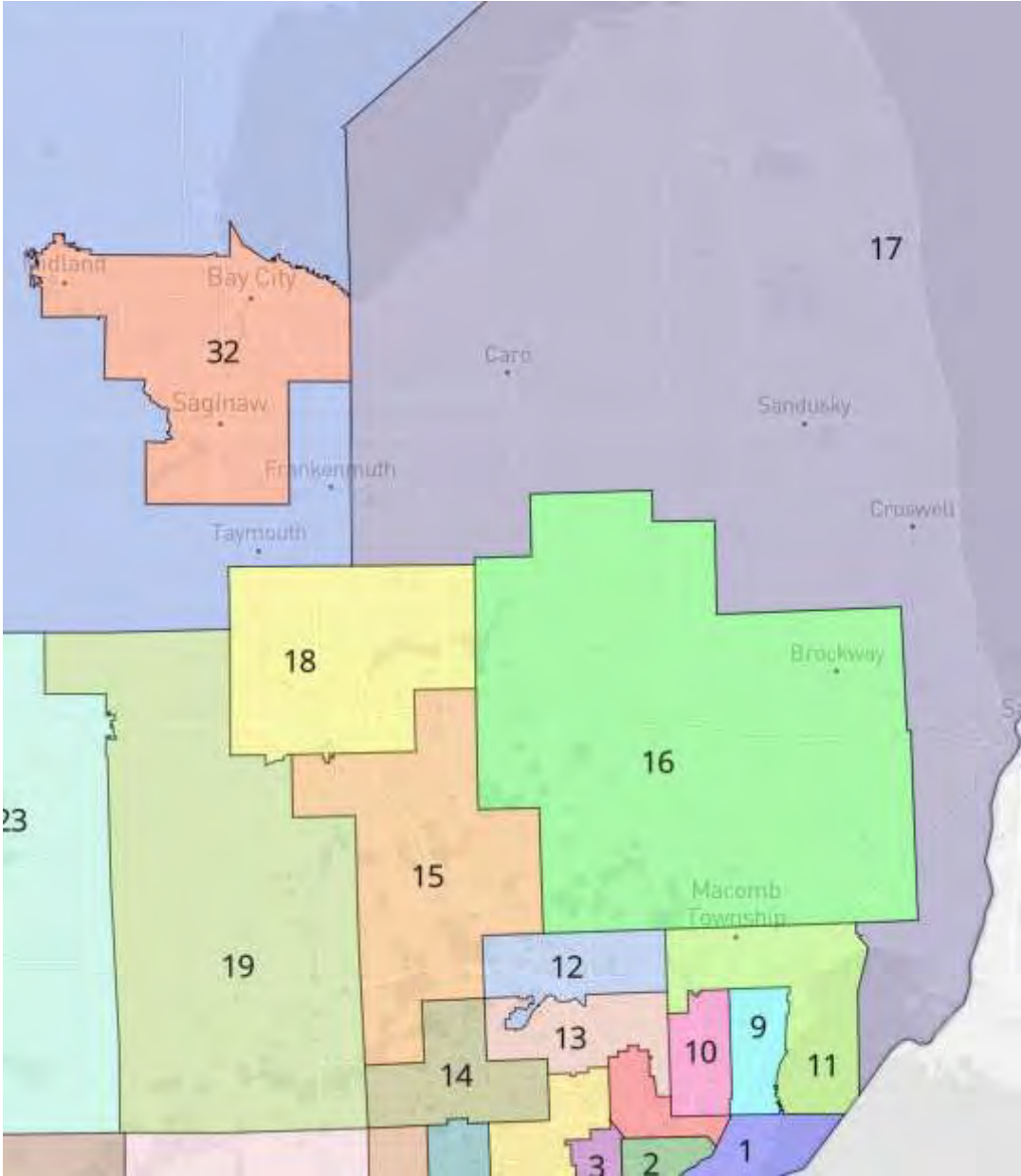
All three districts would be competitive with a Democratic lean.

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

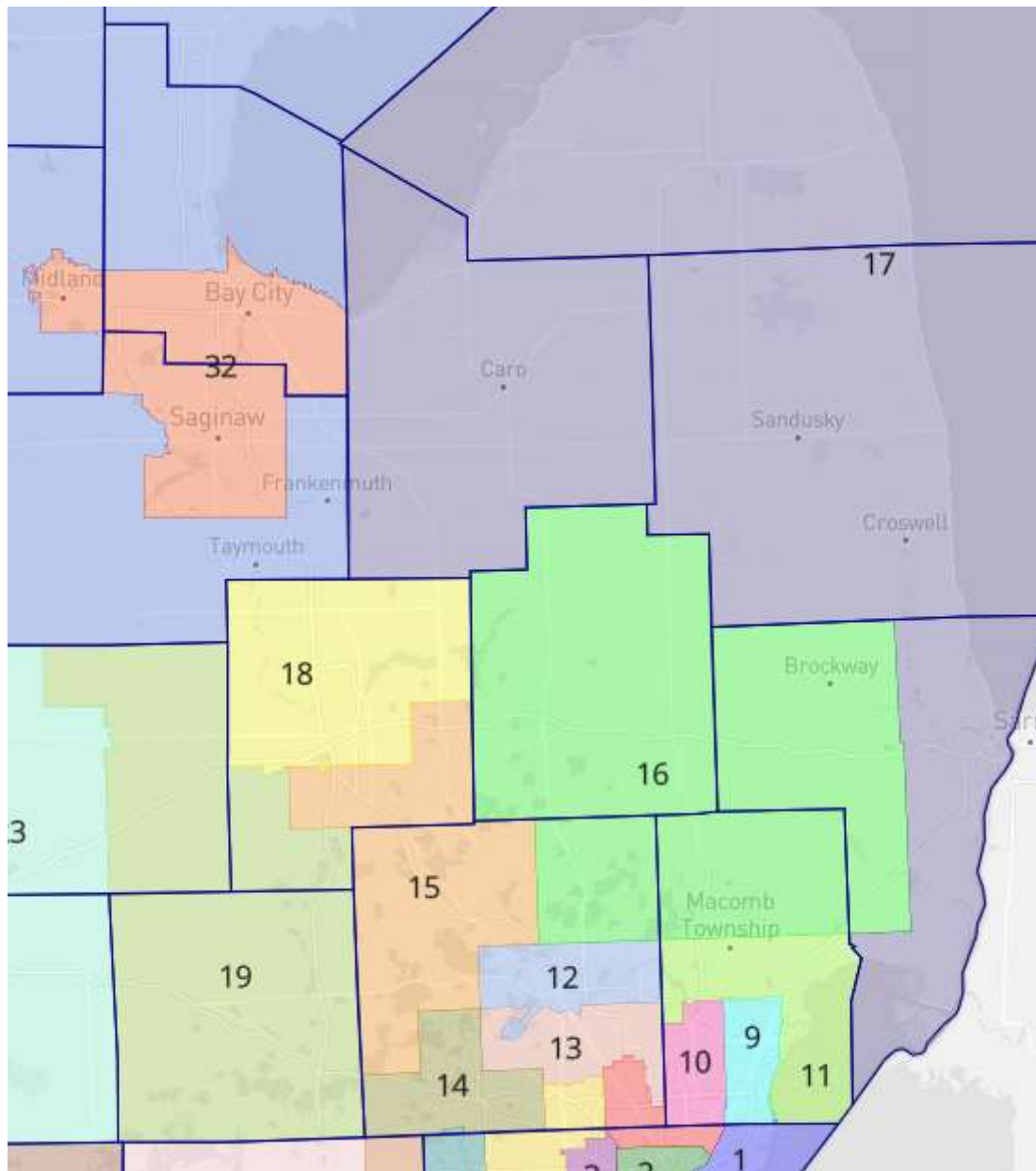
- District 1 includes all of Grosse Pointe Shores, including the Oakland County portion. That portion has a tiny population and could easily be moved to District 9 to split the municipality instead of the county, if desired.
- District 6 includes all of Northville, including the Oakland County portion. 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.

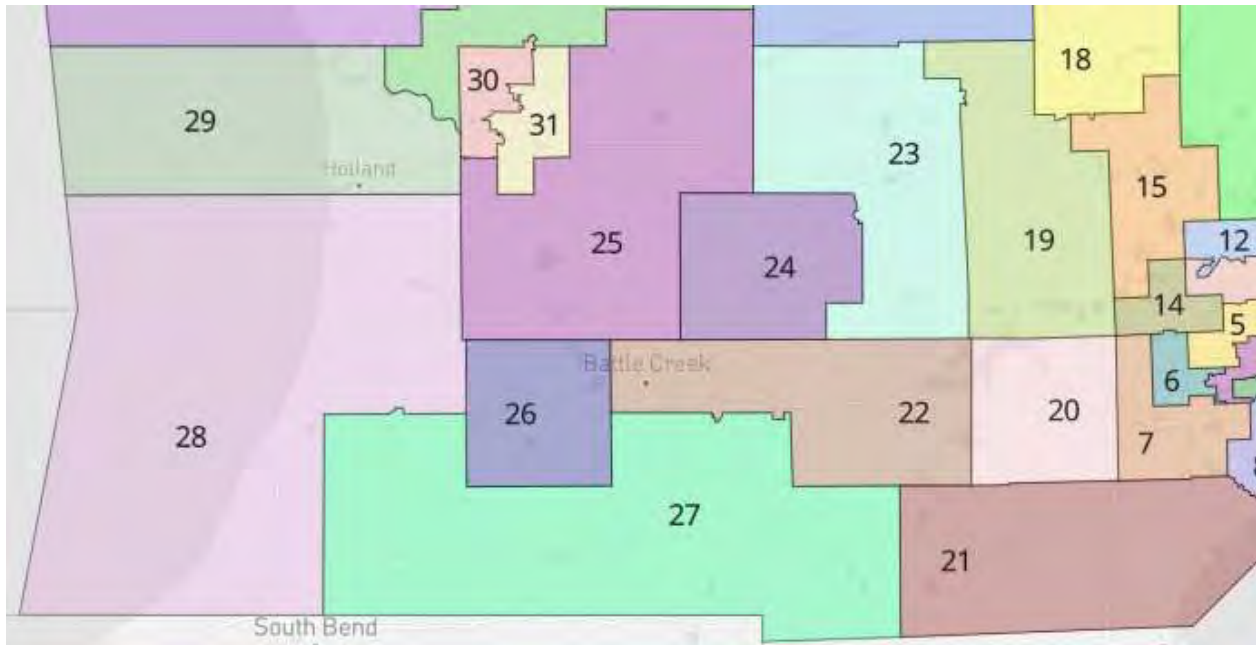
- District 15 is built around the I-75 corridor between Pontiac and Flint.
- District 16 pulls together exurban and rural areas anchored by Lapeer, combined with northeastern Oakland, northern Macomb, and western St. Clair
- District 17 is a Thumb district with Tuscola, Huron, and Sanilac along with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

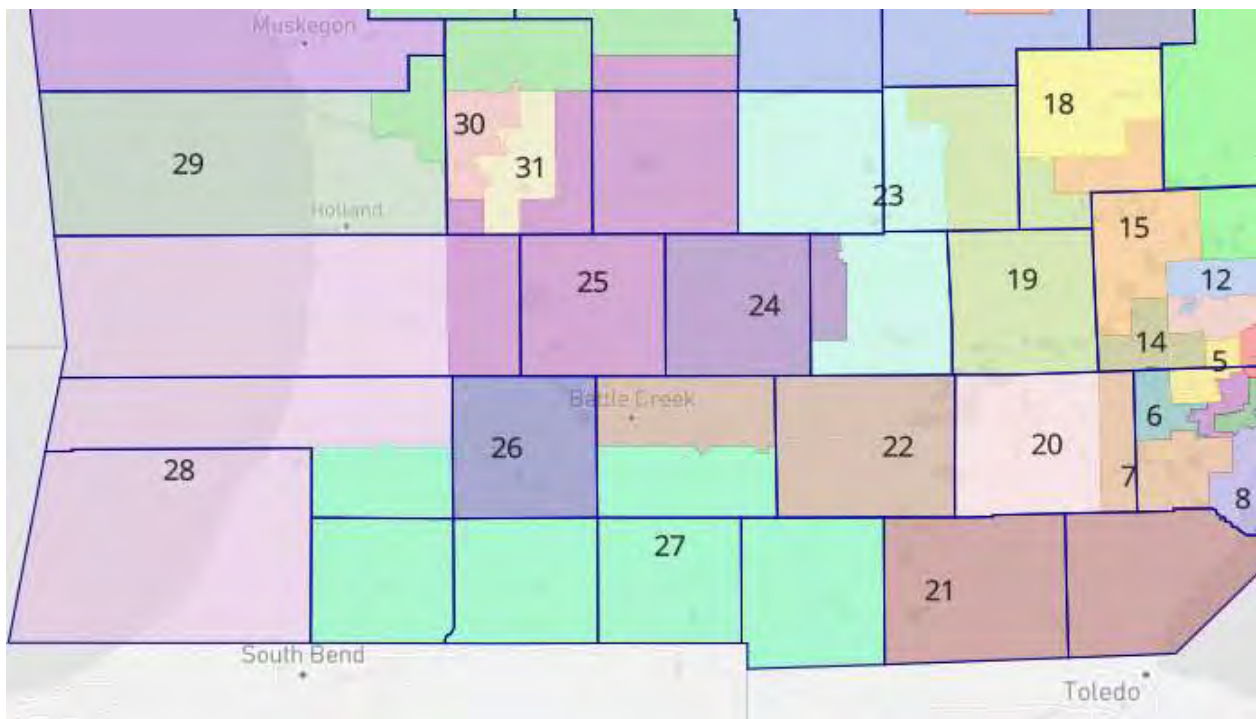
This is a heavily Republican section of the state. District 18 would be safe Democratic, and at about 30% African American, likely to elect an African American Democrat. District 15 which is strongly Republican and the other two safe Republican.

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.

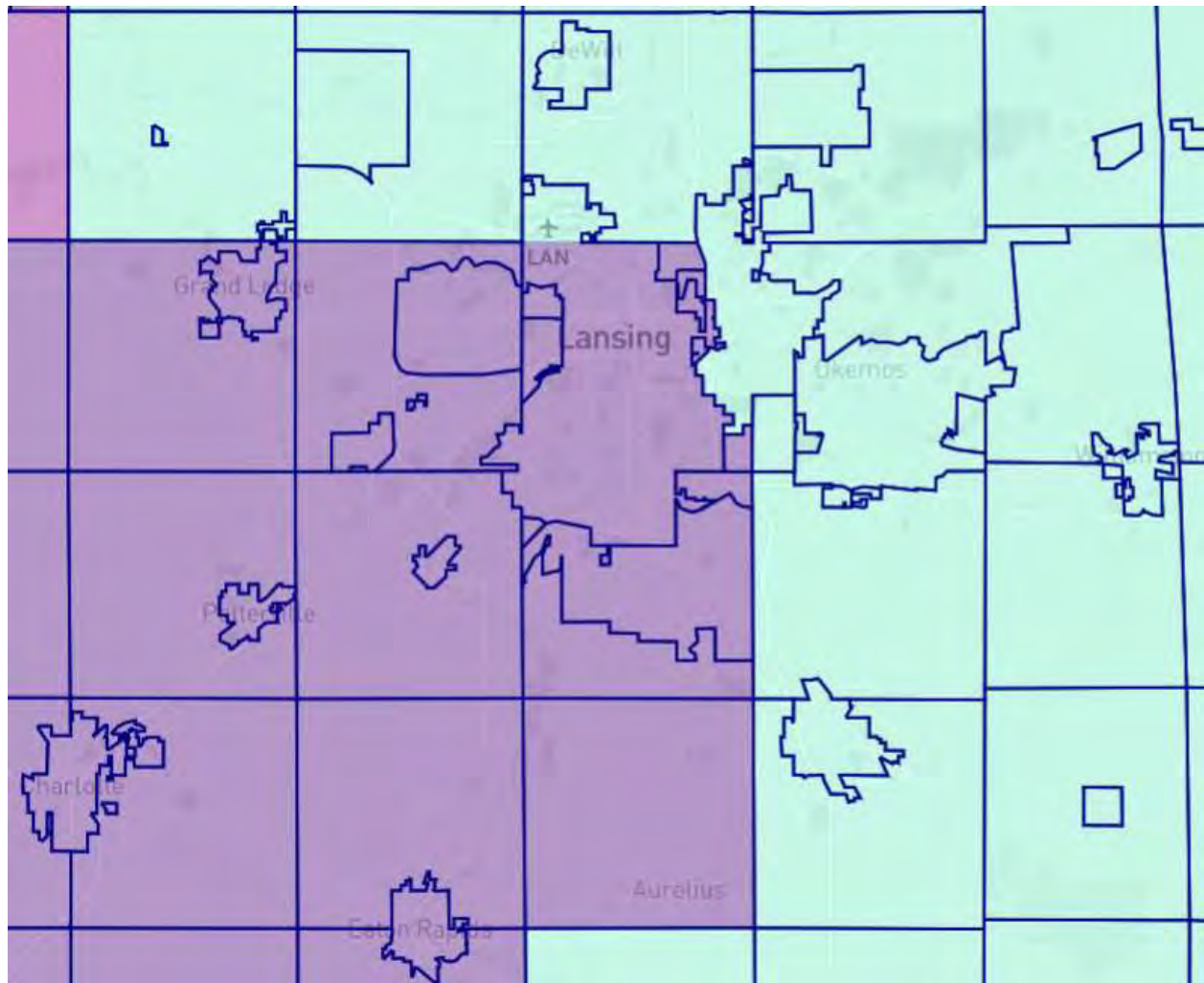
- District 19 is a suburban/exurban seat in the middle of Detroit, Flint, and Lansing. It combines all of Livingston County with southern Genesee and eastern Shiawassee.
- District 20 is a compact Washtenaw seat, anchored by Ann Arbor and containing its western bedroom communities.
- District 21 links 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.

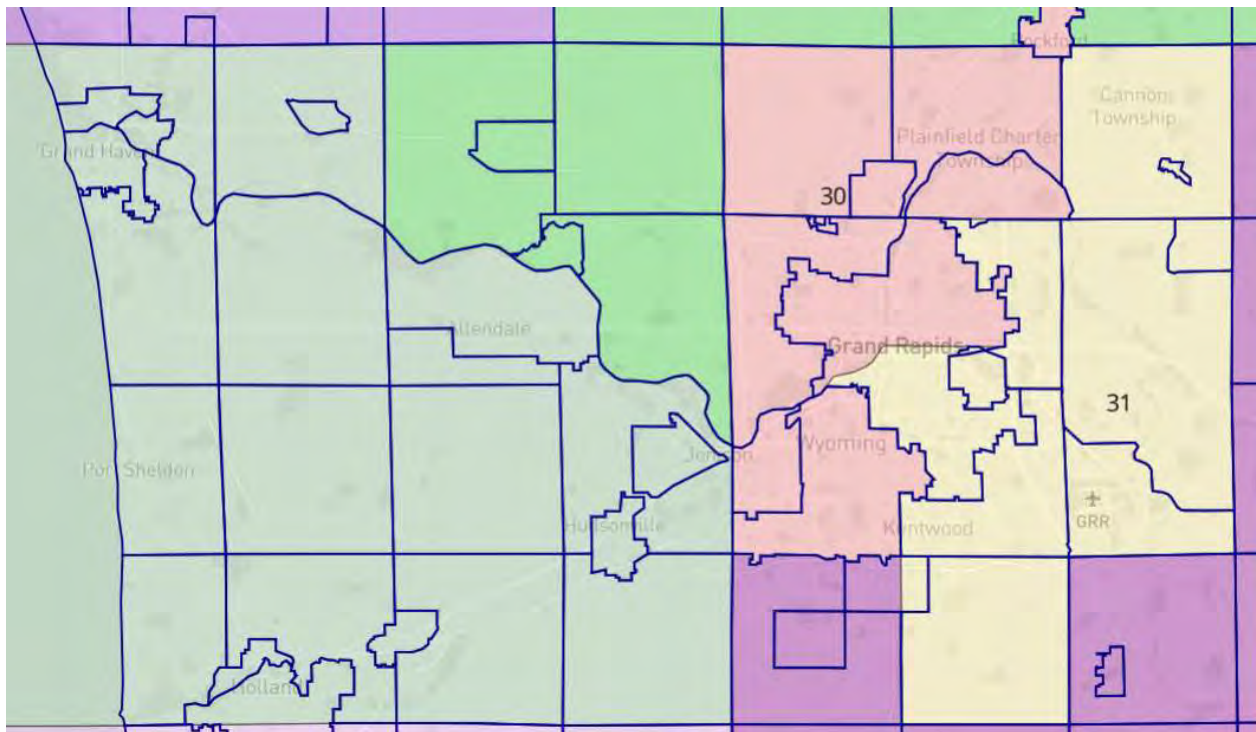
- District 29 is a compact Ottawa seat. Ottawa is too large for a single district, so far northeastern Ottawa is placed in District 34
- District 30 is one of two Grand Rapids-based seats, containing the western and northern portions of the “Six Cities” and extending into surrounding townships.
- District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

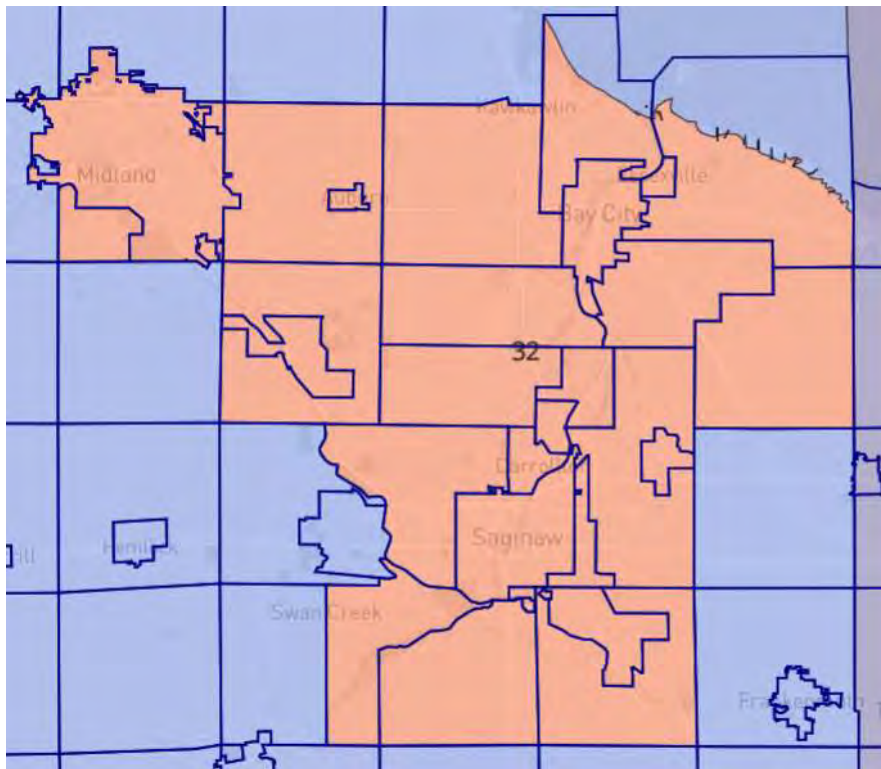
This region of the state favors Republicans, which is shown in the districts' partisan preferences. Districts 25, 27 and 29 are safe Republican; while District 28 is strongly Republican. Districts 26 and 31 are strongly Democratic. District 30 would be highly competitive.

Close-up of Kent and Ottawa with municipal boundaries



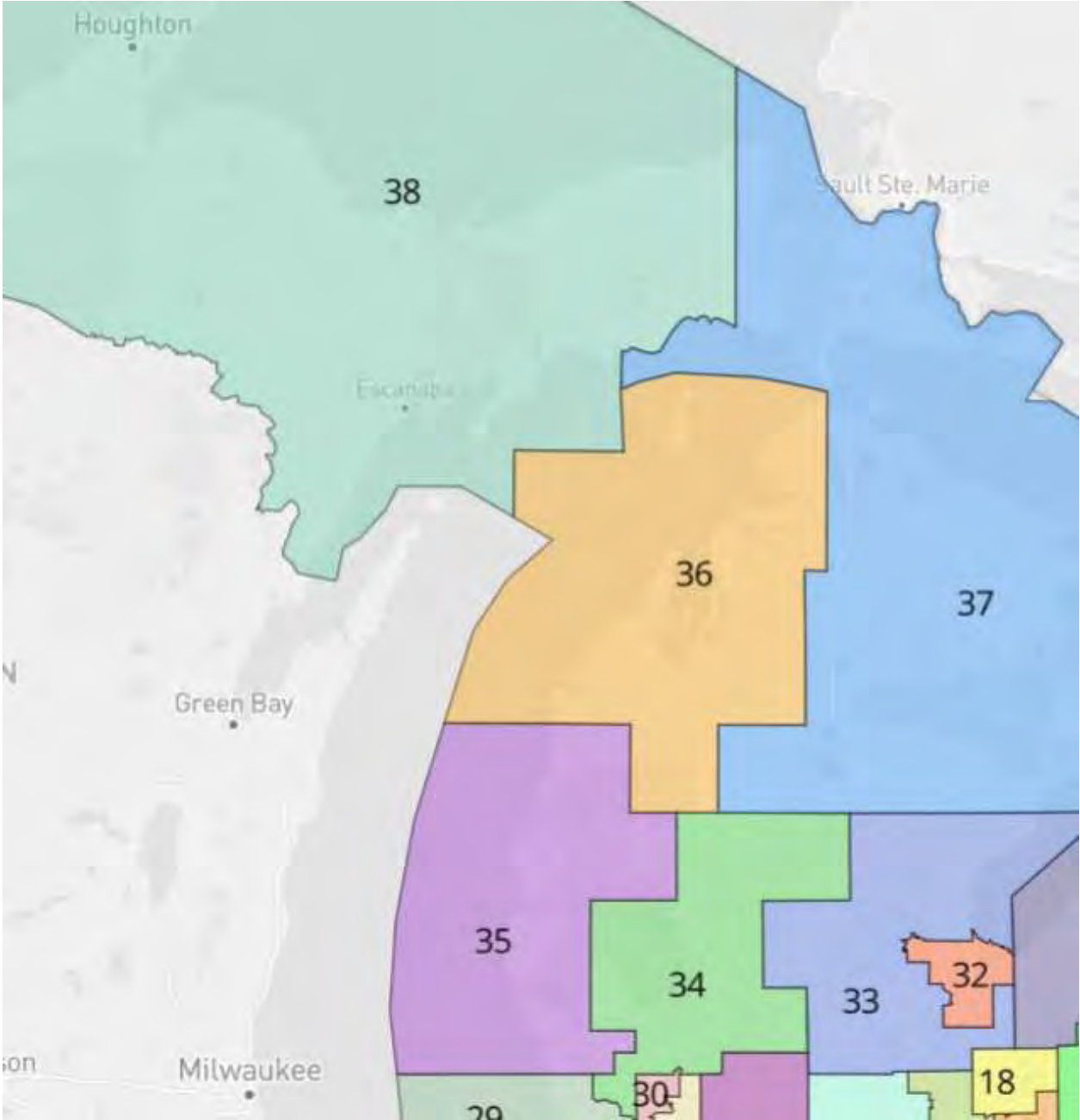
Note that the Cutlerville area south of Wyoming/Kentwood that appears to be split is a Census-designated place, not a true municipality

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

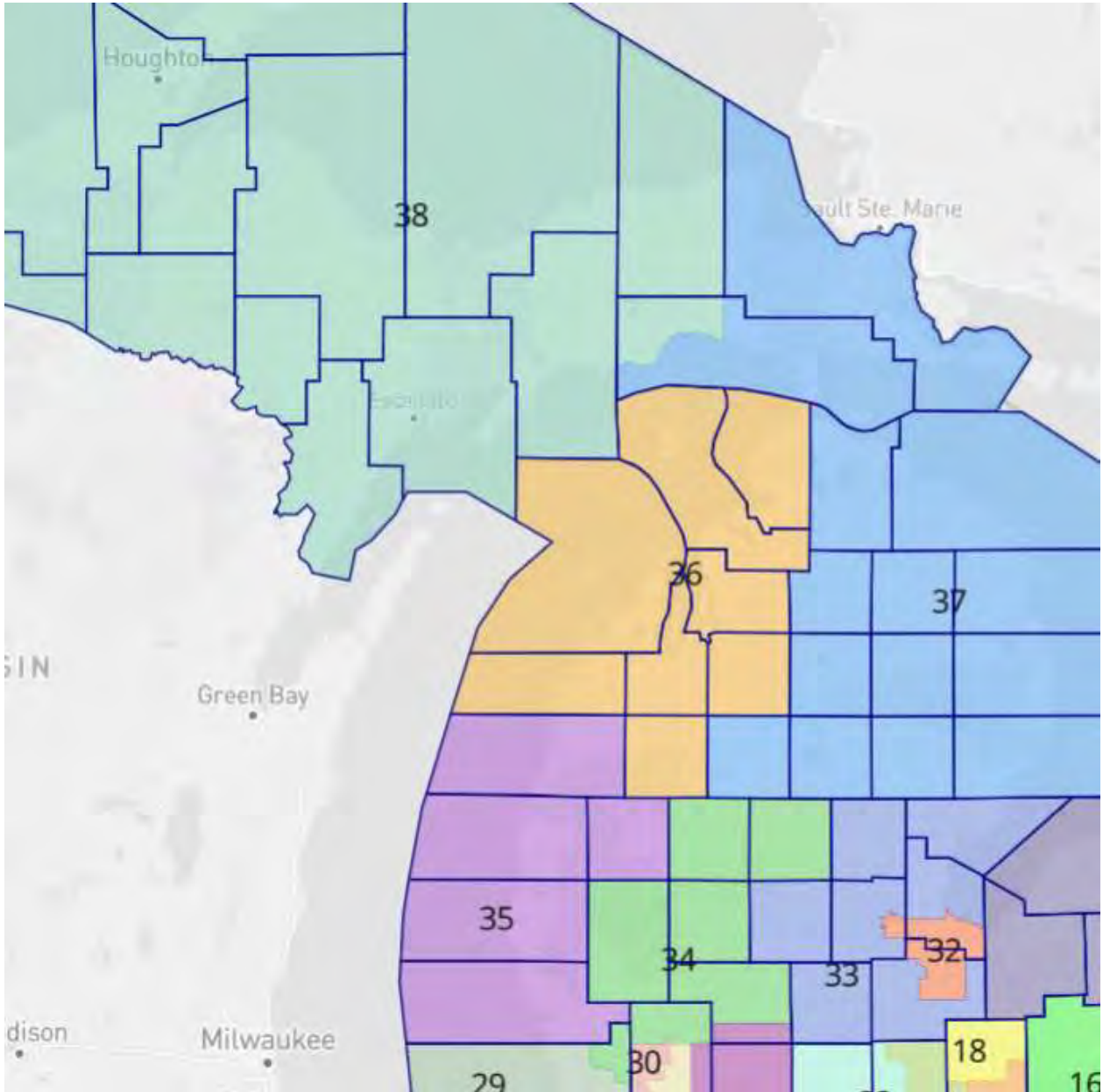


Northern Michigan

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.

Keep Canton Whole

This Asian American Pacific Islander community of interest submission illustrates how Canton Township is a place vital for its Asian American Pacific Islander population, which currently comprises 14.1% of the population, with 8.0% being South Asian. It has a demographic quite unlike its surrounding communities, such as Plymouth to the north (5.2% Asian), Westland (4.6% Asian) to the east and Belleville (0.46% Asian) to the south.

Canton's leadership at the township level, and at the Plymouth-Canton school district board level, reflects the rich diversity of the community. Moreover, the central commercial district on Ford Road is also populated by a considerable number of Asian and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) owned restaurants and stores, which the Asian American Pacific Islander population see as integral for community gatherings and interaction

With its population of 98,659 in the 2020 Census it fits pretty well to be its own State House district.

As well, Canton's population would fit neatly as a whole community into a State Senate district.

The vibrancy and communal spirit of Canton's Asian American Pacific Islander communities are a vital element of what keeps it a thriving and growing community.

Keep Canton whole. That is a doable hope and wish.

Submitted by

Roland Hwang, President

American Citizens for Justice, Inc., an Asian American civil rights organization

RH+CY 9-2-2021

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Michigan Independent Citizens
Redistricting Commission
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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.